WARREN MAGAZINE

ROOK SMASHES INTO THE PRESENT!

EERIE

EERIE #89

$1.25 56320-6

JAN. 1978



BEWARE THE BEAUTIFUL AND DEADLY SPIDER-QUEEN!

See Page 20



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EERIE No. 89 PUBLISHING MONTHLY EXCEPT APRIL, JULY AND DECEMBER BY WARREN PUBLISHING CO. EDITORIAL, SUBSCRIPTION & BUSINESS OFFICES AT 145 EAST 32nd STREET, N.Y. 10016. TELEPHONE: (212) 683-6050.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 9 ISSUES FOR $12.00 IN THE U.S.; CANADA AND ELSEWHERE $14.00.

SECOND-CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT NEW YORK, N.Y. AND AT ADDITIONAL MAILING OFFICES.
PRINTED IN U.S.A.

SUBSCRIBERS: PLEASE ALLOW 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY OF YOUR FIRST ISSUE.

EERIE®

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ISSUE NO. 89
JANUARY 1978

Dear Cousin Eerie...

Thank you for the "Gaffer" series.
It is the best written and most human strip that **Warren** has ever published.
The segment in EERIE #85 was the best story I've ever read in this magazine and that's saying something! The series really has heart and a concern for all living things, as represented in the latest installment in EERIE #87.
I regret that Gaffer has only three wishes.

MARK GAUTHIER
Mt. Clemens, Mich.

The letters page in EERIE #87 says you are considering a format change in EERIE.
Please don't. You will definitely lose me as a buyer if you do.
I buy VAMPIRELLA because I like the combination of women and horror. I buy EERIE for the serials. I do not buy CREEPY, as non-continuing horror stories do not interest me.
Personally I'd rather see **Warren** rerun an old series rather than see EERIE go to non-serial material.

HOWARD LEROY DAVIS
Pitman, N.J.

Aw, come on now! You've got to be kidding me in your efforts to make "The Rook" a regular series!
Well, let me tell you that "The Rook" doesn't please me one bit. The Rook and his little band of robots reminds me of Luke Skywalker and his two robot friends. Could this series be based on "Star Wars"? For shame! But this is what this series' characters and type of action has led me to believe!

JOSEPH E. PEREZ
San Francisco, Ca.

If the truth be known, Joseph, criticism like this can't help but please all concerned with the creation of The Rook because, after all, isn't "Star Wars" just about everybodies' favorite adventure movie?
And, if you'll remember, The Rook appeared long before anyone had ever heard of "Star Wars" ... as long ago as last January ... and had been in production way back in Summer of 1976!

I have been reading **Warren** magazines since EERIE #46 and, in my opinion, **Warren** puts out the highest quality comics in the nation. They focus, not only on heroic subjects, but on everyday matters as well (i.e., political wars, abortion, prejudice).
Continue in this vein, but don't neglect the good old fashioned horror stories about the living dead, werewolves, mad scientists, etc.
Jim Starlin's "Darklon" series is excellent and I'm eager for the next installment.

TED JALBERT
Rocky Hill, Conn.

Bravo for EERIE #87!
"The Rook" story was dynamite! The only bad point was the destruction of the little robots, Nuts and Bolts.
"Scallywag" is a great series and we should see more of him. I was honestly surprised to see the name New Bedford, in the "Scallywag" story. My home town doesn't get much publicity anymore.
"Years and Mind Forever" was a great ending to the **Corben** Time Travel Trilogy. The artwork, even in black and white, was **Corben**'s best so far.
"Gaffer" was strange and not as good as its predecessors.
"Hunter 3" looked like something out of Mad Magazine. The artwork was great but hard to follow and gags were generally bad.
I hated "Incredible Illusions!"

MICHAEL CARVALHO
New Bedford, Mass.

Your biggest, best and most exciting issue ever was a letdown, especially at the increased price!
Only two stories in the whole issue were worthwhile: the **Bruce Jones/Rich Corben** conclusion to the Time Travel Trilogy and **Alex Nino**'s spectacular "Hunter 3," though to be honest, I considered **Jim Stenstrum**'s accompanying dialogue silly!
Stenstrum has proven in the past that he is capable of writing real horror stories, so why does he produce this humorous junk now?
It would seem, on the other hand, that **Jones** is one of your better authors as he does not waste time on childish one-liners or an excess of gory detail! "Years and Mind Forever" was not only a classic on a par with the rest of this series ... it was also the only intelligent script in EERIE #87!

JIM SIEMENS
St. Catherines, Ont. Canada

EERIE #87 was great!
Frank Frazetta, Jose Ortiz and **Rich Corben** in the same issue is more than anyone can ask for. But to have **Alex Nino** too, is almost too good to believe!
Nino is different, dazzling, daring and delightful!
I first saw his work at the World Science Fiction Convention held in Washington, D.C. several years ago, sponsored by the Philippine Comic Archives and the Philippine Science-Fantasy Society and I was stunned by his originality.
Needless to say, he won one of the top awards in the art show!
Hope to see more of his work in your publications!

MILTON SCHWARTZ
South San Francisco, Calif.

We at Warren Publishing are equally pleased to have Alex with us. He'll be doing as much work for us as we can coax out of him!

EERIE #87 was the most sensational issue I have ever read!
First of all, "The Rook" story was oustanding. Even though Restin Dane was not in this episode, Manners the Robot and Bishop Dane made fine heroes.
"Scallywag" was great and I hope to see more of this series!
I am surprised to discover that EERIE has introduced a third Hunter series. "Hunter 3" was well written and the art was fabulous. The story, a takeoff on the adventures of Demian and Karas, was truly hilarious.
The characters' names, such as "Twyla Smyla" (who was a ravishingly beautiful little girl) and "Woop, last of the Exterminator dingos," were really cute.
Woop made me laugh just to look at him.
I hope to see this series last as long as The Rook.

PAUL GOMPERTZ
New York, N.Y.

"Hunter 3" was originally created as a one-shot, Paul, but if we get this request from a goodly number of Hunter 3 fans, we'll see if we can't convince Jim and Alex to do a sequel!

I think your magazine is very good and it is also interesting and fun to read.
There is just one thing wrong with it. Your magazine is just too immodest. The covers have almost naked women and so do the stories.
The body is a sacred thing. It is not meant to be shown openly on covers or in comics. I think your magazine is influencing people to think sex is just something to have fun with, not something God gave us to have children.
I'm not a religious freak but I do value my religion. I'm a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. You may have heard of the Mormons. It's the same religion.
I don't know everything since I'm only sixteen, but I do know that what you are doing is wrong.
Please ask your writers and artists to use more care and modesty in your stories. It would really improve your magazine.

JOHNNY TOWNSEND
Metairie, La.

Rich Corben's art in "Years and Mind Forever" in EERIE #87 was great!
One problem though. Why couldn't this have been a color story? Color would have made it even more exciting ... and it's what I expect in the larger, higher priced special issues!

FRANK MURPHINE
Millville, N.J.

Many readers regretted the lack of color on this story, Frank. But I have some good news for you.
The special holiday issues of the Warren magazines, on sale in December, will contain color sections ... and one will feature a spectacular Rich Corben cover!

Just a few comments about EERIE #87.
I'm sorry to see that **Warren** has succumbed to the use of that repulsive little computer code on the lower left-hand corner of your magazines. It has a very deleterious effect on the art and I fail to see its value since no store in Ontario yet carries the sophisticated hardware necessary for its use.

GARY KIMBER
Ontario, Canada

I have just finished reading the latest installment of "The Rook" in EERIE #87. Of all the series in EERIE, this one has become my favorite.
It is humorous, exciting, suspenseful and dumb! The other stories were okay, but this one was the best!

ROBERT BLEASE, JR.
Grand Haven, Mich.

"The Rook" story in EERIE #87 was good ... but where was The Rook? And where were the winners to The Rook contest?

TONY ANDERSON
Green Rock, Ill.

If you'll re-read your contest information, Tony, you'll find that the winners were to be announced last issue, in EERIE #86! And they were! A whole page was devoted to the major winners, wih another two pages featuring runners-up!

I've been following EERIE for the past year, waiting for the conclusion of the **Bruce Jones/ Rich Corben** Time Travel Trilogy, because the first two parts were great!
So, when I got EERIE #87, I expected a fantastic conclusion! But all I got was a cop out!
Get with it guys! The world has been altered or ended too many times at the end of Time Travel stories.
There was only one way that story should have ended! The machine that brought Jeff back in Karen's body should have brought her back pregnant from her night of love with Jeff. She should have had a baby girl with a full grown adult's intelligence and memories ... Karen's memories.
That way the two ill-fated lovers would be together again ... in a really offbeat way!
Maybe the whole book should have been devoted to offbeat endings to this particular set-up!

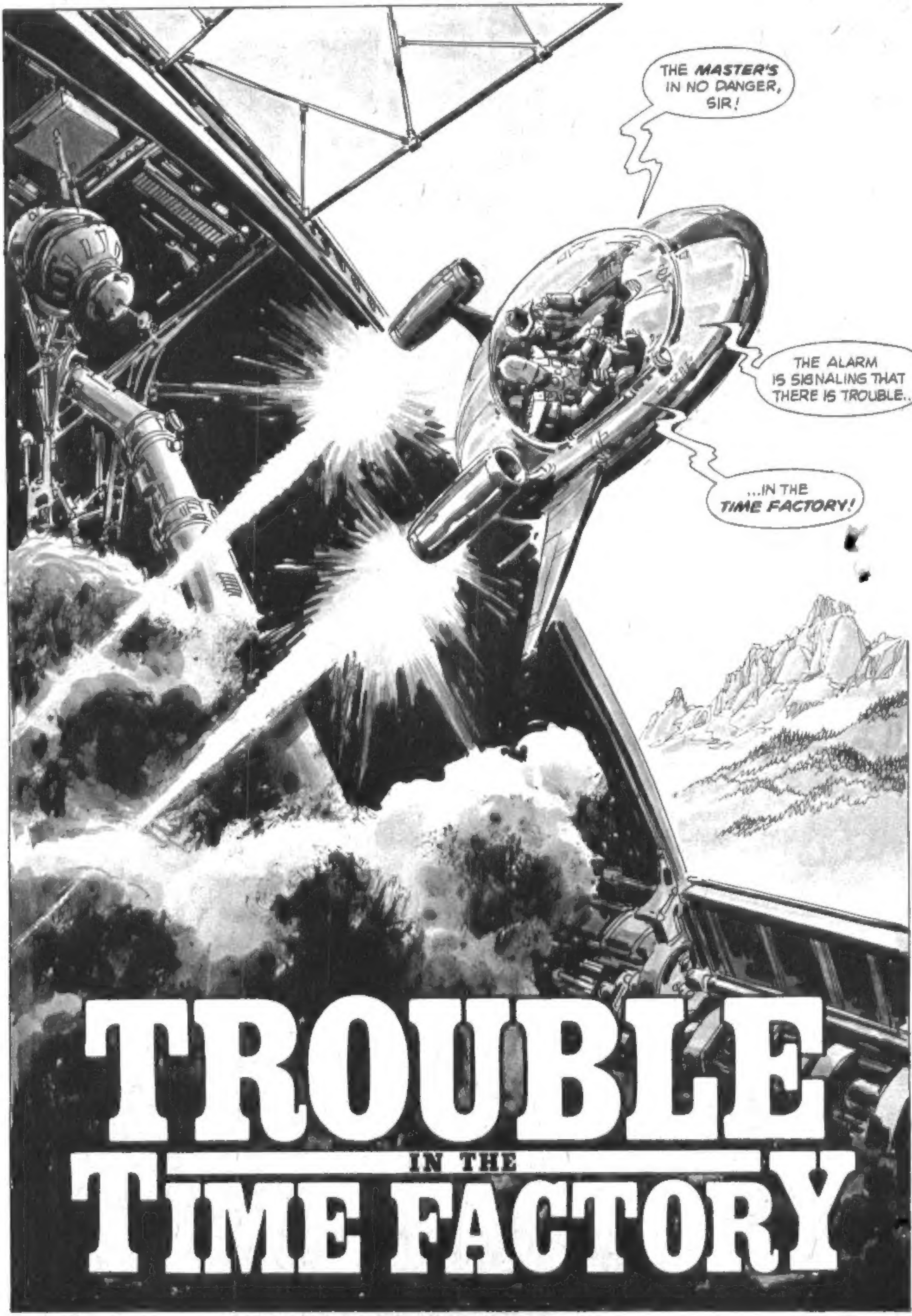
DAVID JANSEN
Minneapolis, Minn.

DEAR COUSIN EERIE
c/o Warren Publishing
145 E. 32nd Street
New York, N.Y. 10016

The ROOK™



STORY: BILL DuBAY/ART: LUIS BERMEJO


THE *MASTER'S* IN NO DANGER, SIR!
THE ALARM IS SIGNALING THAT THERE IS TROUBLE...
...IN THE *TIME FACTORY!*
TROUBLE IN THE TIME FACTORY


DAMMIT ALL, BOY! TIME FACTORY? WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES IS A TIME FACTORY?
IT'S A TOP SECRET PROJECT, SIR, FOUNDED AND HEADED BY YOUR GREAT, GREAT GRANDSON, JOINTLY SPONSORED BY HIM AND THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT!
WELL HOW D'YA LIKE THAT? M'BOY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH UNCLE SAMBO...AN' HE NEVER EVEN TOLD ME!
GAAAA! LOOK OUT FER THET MOUNTAIN, YA FUMBLE-BRAINED NEWT!
YOU'RE GONNA GET US KILT IN THIS FLYIN' RAT TRAP, SURE!
PLEASE, MASTER BISHOP... RETAIN YOUR COMPOSURE!
THE TIME FACTORY LIES IN THE HEART OF THIS MOUNTAIN...NOT FAR FROM ROOK MANOR.
JEHOSOPHAT! LOOKIT TH'SIZE A'IT!
HERE, AMERICA'S TOP SCIENTISTS HAVE BEEN WORKING TO EXPAND UPON THE MASTER'S SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENTS.
LOOK, ROBOT! THAT BOZO IN TH'CLOWN SUIT'S FLAGGIN' US DOWN!
THAT'S COLONEL MORGAN, SIR! HE WANTS US TO LAND!
B-BUT...OH LORD, SIR! THERE'S SOMEONE ON THE RUNWAY!
WE...WE'RE GOING TOO FAST!
WE'RE GOING TO HIT HIM!


JEHOSOPHAT, ROBOT! THAT AIN'T NO MAN!
IT... IT'S--!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS!
BUT IT'S PLUCKIN' US RIGHT OUTTA THE AIR!
UGHHHN! AN' IT'S TOSSIN' US 'ROUND LIKE L'IL STUFFED DOLLS!
CRASH!
OOOEEEE! THAT BOY'S GOT HISSELF SOME PITCHIN' ARM!
I SAY, SIR! THIS IS NOT THE MANNER IN WHICH MASTER DANE TAUGHT ME TO FLY!
LOOK WHAT HE DONE! THAT MANGY UGLY LITTLE VARMINT DONE WRECKED M'BOY'S FLYIN' THING!
LEMME AT HIM!
NOOO! YOU MUSN'T!
P-PLEASE, SIR! YOU'LL BE KILLED!
THE MANDROID'S TOO POWER-FUL!


THE MAN-DROID IS THE REASON YOU'VE SUMMONED MASTER DANE, THEN, SIR?
IT IS, MANNERS. THE CREATURE IS RUNNING AMOK, AND THERE'S LITTLE MY MEN CAN DO TO STOP IT!
WE WERE HOPING RESTIN DANE COULD HELP!
MASTER DANE IS UNAVAILABLE, SIR! HOWEVER, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU HIS...ER, GRAND-FATHER...
...FOR WHATEVER MINOR CONSOLATION THAT MAY BRING!
PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MR. DANE. I'M COLONEL MORGAN! AND THAT LONG-HAIRED GENTLEMAN APPROACHING IS DR. WING WANG, OUR HEAD SCIENTIST.
ACTUALLY, I DON'T KNOW IF THE GODS THEM-SELVES COULD HELP AT THIS POINT. COME INTO THE CONTROL CENTER. I'LL SHOW YOU!
Y'KIN SURE TELL M'BOY HAD A HAND IN BUILDIN' THIS PLACE...!
BBOW!
BADDA!
HE PUTS THEM FUNNY VIEWIN' SCREENS EVERY-WHERE!
LOOK! THERE GOES THAT MANGY MANDROID VARMINT NOW!
PTOW!
DOW!
DOW!
YES! AND AS YOU CAN SEE, SIR... EVEN OUR MOST ADVANCED WEAPONRY IS USELESS AGAINST IT!
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR PROJECT, MR. DANE...
...BUT THE MANDROID IS VIRTUALLY UN-STOPPABLE!
THAT SENILE YOUNG GRAN-SON'A MINE DON'T TELL ME NOTHIN', COLONEL! I NEVER HEARD TH' NAME A'THIS PLACE A'FORE T'DAY!
THE TIME FACTORY--! IT'S SOME KIND'A SECRET PROJECT, AIN'T IT?
TOP SECRET, SIR! AND IF YOUR GRANDSON FAILED TO TELL YOU OF ITS IMPORTANCE, I CAN ONLY ASSUME HE DID SO BECAUSE YOU HAVE NO SECURITY CLEARANCE!
BUT THAT'S SOMETHING WE'LL HAVE TO WORRY OVER LATER.
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT A CRISIS... AND MORE PROBLEMS LOOMING LARGER EVERY SECOND.
G-GOOD GOSH! WHAT ARE THOSE THINGS?



THESE, MR. DANE, ARE MINIATURE MANDROIDS, DESIGNED BY YOUR GRANDSON, RESTIN DANE!
PART BIOLOGICAL, PART MECHANICAL, ONE MIGHT DEFINE THEM AS ORGANICALLY GROWN ROBOTS...
...THE FINAL LINK BETWEEN MAN AND MACHINE!
GOOD LORD! BUT WHAT ARE THEY FOR?
FOR? WHY, MR. DANE... THEY ARE TO REPLACE HUMANKIND, NATURALLY!
O-OH...UH... NATCH'RULLY!
JUST LOOK AT THEM, SIR! THEY ARE THE STRONGEST, QUICKEST, MOST AGILE CREATURES IN EXISTENCE!
THEY ARE VIRTUALLY UN-STOPPABLE! AS IN-VINCIBLE AND LONG-LASTING AS STEEL...
...YET, THEY POSSESS THE BIO-LOGICAL ABILITY TO THINK AND HEAL THEMSELVES IN THE EVENT OF BREAK-DOWN!
...OR AS WE ARE ATTEMPTING HERE...TO VIRTUALLY EXPLORE TIME ITSELF!
THEY CAN REPLACE MAN ON LENGTHY SPACE EXPLORATIONS... WORK TIRELESSLY FARMING THE BOTTOM OF THE SEA...
WHY, SIR...THERE IS NO LIMIT TO THE VALUE OF SUCH A CREATURE!
NOT TO MENTION THEIR VARIED MILITARY AND INDUSTRIAL CAP-ABILITIES.



COLONEL, SIR..! THE MAN-DROID'S BREAKING NTO THE CENTRAL COMPUTER BRAIN!
WE... WE CAN'T STOP IT SIR!
BADOOM!
GOOD GRIEF! IF IT DESTROYS THAT BRAIN, THE ENTIRE FACTORY COULD BE CRIPPLED!
A N'T THERE SOME WAY YOU CAN HOLD THAT CRITTER, DOC?
OUR...OUR ONLY HOPE ARE THE EXPERIMENTAL WEAPONS IN THE DEVELOPMENT SECTION.
BUT.. THEY'RE TOO DANGEROUS! MANY HAVEN'T EVEN BEEN TESTED!
SHOW ME THE WAY, FELLA
OH..I...I COULDN'T SIR! THEY'RE HIGHLY CLASSIFIED! AND, AND THERE'S THE SLIGHT PROBLEM OF YOUR LACK OF SECURITY CLEARANCE--!
SEE THIS, DOC? IT'S ALL THE CLEARANCE I NEED!
WELL ER, PERHAPS WE CAN ARRANGE SOME-THING!
CLIK!
M-MASTER BISHOP, SIR..! YOU'VE NO EXPERIENCE WITH THOSE WEAPONS! YOU... YOU COULD HURT YOURSELF. SERIOUSLY!
THAT'S TRUE 'NUFF, TIN MAN! BUT I NEVER SAID I WAS GONNA USE 'EM! YOUR MASTER BUILT THEM.. THAT MEANS YOU KNOW HOW T'WORK 'EM!
ERGO.. YOU'RE THE BEST ONE HERE T'PLAY HERO!
M-ME..?
UH.. OH, YES..! A VERY ASTUTE OBSERVATION SIR!
UH...UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, DR. WANG, I'M SURE MASTER DANE AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD VOICE LITTLE OBJECTION!
WE'RE ALL GONNA DIE! I JUST KNOW IT! IF THAT MANDROID DOESN'T GET US, I JUST KNOW ONE OF YOU WILL!
PERHAPS THIS ROCKET-HARNESS WILL STOP THE RUNAWAY MANDROID, MASTER BISHOP!
IF YA ASK ME, IT LOOKS LIKE SOMETHIN' OUTTA A TINKER TOY BOX!
BUT...!



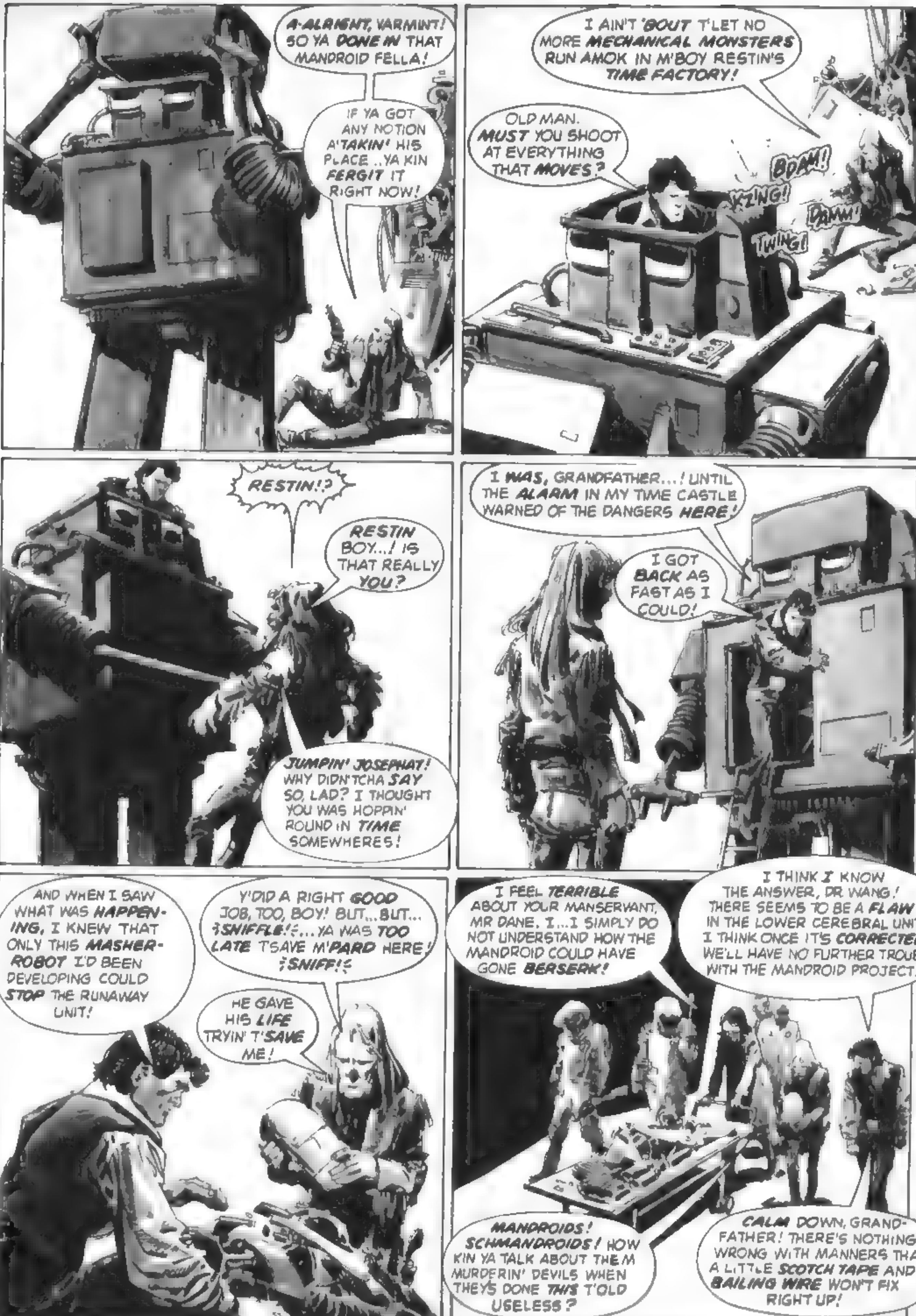
...IF IT'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR M'GRANDSON... WHO AM I TO COMPLAIN?
YA DIDN'T THINK I WAS GONNA SEND A TIN-LIZZIE T'DO A MAN'S JOB, DID'JA, BOY?
MASTER BISHOP, SIR ..! WH... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WHEN WE VOWED T'TAKE ON THIS HEROIN' BUSINESS . Y KNEW I'D HAVE TA BE THE BRAINS A'THIS OUTFIT!
SO... I'S GONNA LEAD YA INTO WAR!
'SIDES... THIS LOOKS KIND'A FUN! WHAT ARE THESE LITTLE BUTTONS FOR?
M-MASTER BISHOP... NO!
YAHWEEEEOOOOOOHHN!
DON'T PRESS THOSE BUTTONS..!
ROBOT! IF THAT MAN BLOWS US ALL UP, LET IT BE ON YOUR CONSCIENCE!
BZOOOOOOM!
YAHOOO! TIN MAN... THESE UNGODLY CONTRAPTIONS RE GONNA BE THE DEATH A ME YET!
HOLD ON, MASTER BISHOP... I'M COMING!
OH GOD...! THE OLD MAN'S OUT OF CONTROL!
HE... HE'S GONNA CRASH!
HE'LL BLOW UP THE ENTIRE COMPLEX!
RUN!!


NO! LOOK! HE'S PULLING OUT OF IT!
OOWWEEE! YOU SEE THAT DIVE, TIN MAN?
HA! HA! THIS LIL BABY'S A KICK IN THE OLD PTOOSIE, AIN'T SHE?
Y-YOU'RE ENJOYING YOURSELF, SIR?
ZWOOOOM!
'COURSE I'M ENJOYIN' MYSELF, ROBOT! AIN'T NO MACHINE I CAN'T MASTER IN ONE EASY LESSON!
NOW. WHAT'S THIS LITTLE RED BUTTON FOR?
NOOOO! MASTER BISHOP! TH...THAT'S FOR YOUR WAR-HEADS!
ZWOOM!
HA! HA! I FIGGERED THAT TIN MAN! I WAS JUST TRYIN' TO RILE YA!
UH..UM.. YOU CERTAINLY HAVE A COLORFUL SENSE OF HUMOR, SIR! MAY I SUGGEST WE ATTEND TO THE CRISIS AT HAND?
ZWOOOOMM
YOU'RE ON, BOY! LET'S GO GIVE THAT LITTLE MANDROID BOOGAR WHA'FO!
ZWOOOOOOOOMMMMM!
FROM THE LOOKS A'THE MESS HE'S MADE...I'D SAY HE'S ABOUT HALFWAY INTO THAT BIG BOX THEY CALL TH' BRAIN!
THERE THEY GO, SIR!
SHOULDN'T WE DO SOMETHING TO HELP THEM?
I MEAN COLONEL THEY DON'T HAVE A CHANCE AGAINST THAT RAMPAGING THING!
ALL WE CAN DO, SKURSKI, IS WATCH...AND PRAY!
THERE IT IS, SIR!
HE MUST REALIZE THAT DESTROYING THE BRAIN WILL IMMOBILIZE THE ENTIRE COMPLEX!
SMART FELLA! LET'S SEE IF HIS BRAINS KIN SAVE 'IM FROM ONE'A M BOY RESTIN'S WARHEADS!


KOOOT!
GERON'MOOO!
ZHOOOM!
BOAM!
GLORYOSKI! HE TOOK A DIRECT HIT!
AN'...AN' HE'S ABSORBIN' IT LIKE A SPONGE!
WHAT KIND'A CRITTER IS HE, ANYWAY?
MASTER BISHOP! CLIMB! CLIMB! HE'S GOING TO GET YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT 'BOUT THAT, TIN MAN! THE L'IL JERK'S GOT M'FOOT!
AN' HE'S DRAGGIN' ME INTA THE GROUND!
S'LONG, ROBOT! IT'S BEEN NICE FLYIN' WITH YA!
MASTER BISHOP!
NOOOO!
BOOM!
THWM!
THE MANDROID'S PULLED HIM DOWN!
IT...IT WILL KILL HIM... UNLESS...
OH PLEASE... LET MY AIM BE ACCURATE!
NOOOO! IMPOSSIBLE!
HE PLUCKED MY ROCKETS OUT OF THE AIR!
HIS SPEED... INCREDIBLE!
BUT WHAT WILL HE DO--?
OH HEAVENS...! I HAVE THIS DISTINCTLY ILL FEELING...
...THAT I'M ABOUT TO BE...


...OBLITERATED!
WAKOOOO OOOM!
OH MY GOD, COLONEL! THE OLD MAN...AND THE ROBOT ...BOTH! THEY THEY'RE--!
THEY DIDN'T HAVE A CHANCE, SIR! THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO!
AH, BUT THERE IS, COLONEL DR WANG!
Y-YOU...? BUT I THOUGHT--?
THERE'S NO TIME FOR EXPLANATIONS, DOCTOR!
ONLY ONE PERSON CAN STOP THE MANDROID NOW
TELL YOUR TROOPS TO KEEP HIM BUSY UNTIL I GET THERE!
Y-YES, SIR!
KANG!
TWANG!
SARGE! THESE GUNS ARE LIKE PEA SHOOTERS AGAINST THAT THING!
PTOW!
POW POW
IT... IT'S LAUGHING THEM OFF!
JUST KEEP FIRING, SCARLETTI! WE'VE GOT TO KEEP IT'S ATTENTION
SARGE! IT'S ACTING LIKE IT'S FRIGHTENED--!
IT...IT SEES SOMETHING!
IT IS SCARED, SCARLETTI...
OF THAT!
OH, LORD! A-ANOTHER ONE! A MONSTER!


MANDROID!
AEEEE EEE!
YOU'VE BEEN VERY NAUGHTY, MANDROID!
YOU'VE DISAPPOINTED DR WANG AND THE OTHER SCIENTISTS WHO WERE NICE ENOUGH TO HAVE 'FATHERED' YOU!
AKKK!
NOT ONLY THAT...! BUT YOU'VE HURT THAT SWEET LITTLE OLD MAN AND HIS ROBOT FRIEND!
AND THAT IS SIMPLY UNFORGIVABLE!
SQEEEEE!
WE MUST NEVER, NEVER HURT PEOPLE, MANDROID!
TO HURT PEOPLE IS NASTY. AND SELFISH AND IT MAKES ME VERY, VERY ANGRY!
GARRRA!
I KNOW YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO HARM ANYONE AGAIN... ARE YOU, MANDROID?
EEE EEE!
BECAUSE I'M SURE YOUR LITTLE SOUL IS JUST FULL OF REPENTANCE!


A-ALRIGHT, VARMINT! SO YA DONE IN THAT MANDROID FELLA!
IF YA GOT ANY NOTION A'TAKIN' HIS PLACE ..YA KIN FERGIT IT RIGHT NOW!
I AIN'T 'BOUT T'LET NO MORE MECHANICAL MONSTERS RUN AMOK IN M'BOY RESTIN'S TIME FACTORY!
OLD MAN. MUST YOU SHOOT AT EVERYTHING THAT MOVES?
BOOM!
KZING!
BLAM!
TWING!
RESTIN!?
RESTIN BOY...! IS THAT REALLY YOU?
JUMPIN' JOSEPHAT! WHY DIDN'TCHA SAY SO, LAD? I THOUGHT YOU WAS HOPPIN' ROUND IN TIME SOMEWHERES!
I WAS, GRANDFATHER...! UNTIL THE ALARM IN MY TIME CASTLE WARNED OF THE DANGERS HERE!
I GOT BACK AS FAST AS I COULD!
AND WHEN I SAW WHAT WAS HAPPENING, I KNEW THAT ONLY THIS MASHER-ROBOT I'D BEEN DEVELOPING COULD STOP THE RUNAWAY UNIT!
Y'DID A RIGHT GOOD JOB, TOO, BOY! BUT...BUT... SNIFFLE!...YA WAS TOO LATE T'SAVE M'PARD HERE! SNIFF!
HE GAVE HIS LIFE TRYIN' T'SAVE ME!
I FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT YOUR MANSERVANT, MR DANE. I...I SIMPLY DO NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE MANDROID COULD HAVE GONE BERSERK!
I THINK I KNOW THE ANSWER, DR WANG! THERE SEEMS TO BE A FLAW IN THE LOWER CEREBRAL UNIT. I THINK ONCE IT'S CORRECTED, WE'LL HAVE NO FURTHER TROUBLE WITH THE MANDROID PROJECT!
MANDROIDS! SCHMANDROIDS! HOW KIN YA TALK ABOUT THEM MURDERIN' DEVILS WHEN THEY'S DONE THIS T'OLD USELESS?
CALM DOWN, GRANDFATHER! THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH MANNERS THAT A LITTLE SCOTCH TAPE AND BAILING WIRE WON'T FIX RIGHT UP!


LATER... AFTER RESTIN DANE HAS RELATED HIS ADVENTURES TO OLD MAN BISHOP...
SO THERE I WAS. THOUSANDS OF YEARS IN THE FUTURE, WHEN WHO SHOULD APPEAR BUT GAT HAWKIN ...STEPPING FROM MY VERY OWN TIME HOPPER!
WELL...NATURALLY I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO MAKE OF IT!
BUT THEN I FIGURED...OH SURE... CRAZY OL' BISH JUST LENT HIM THE MACHINE TO DO A LITTLE JOY RIDING!
WILL YOU STOP CLOWNIN' 'ROUND, BOY, AND GIVE IT T'ME STRAIGHT!
WHAT D YOU DO WITH GAT HAWKIN?
WHY.. HE'S STILL IN THE FUTURE, GRANDFATHER. WHERE HE'S MADE HIMSELF KING OF THE WORLD!
ONLY TROUBLE IS... HE'S THE ONLY MAN ON THE WORLD!
I...I SAY, SIR! YOU MAKE IT SOUND SO PEDESTRIAN!
USELESS! YA BRAINLESS HUNK A TIN! YOU...YOU'RE ALIVE!
THAT IS... YOU.. YOU'RE--!
I QUITE UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN, SIR!
T IS GOOD TO SEE YOUR GRIZZLED OLD FACE, ALSO!
I TRUST THE PROBLEM OF THE RUNAWAY MANDROID HAS BEEN RESOLVED?
IT HAS, MANNERS!
BUT OTHER PROBLEMS SEEM TO HAVE TAKEN ITS PLACE.
FOR INSTANCE. WHERE ARE MY TWO UTILITY ROBOTS .NUTS AND BOLTS...?
AND...I NOTICED A GAPING HOLE IN MY CASTLE WALL... AS IF A TANK HAD ROLLED RIGHT THROUGH MY LABORATORY!
UH... WELL, SIR...! IT'S LIKE THIS--!
UH...WHAT I REALLY MEAN TO SAY IS...
...UH...YOU'VE BEEN AWAY A LONG TIME, SIR! QUITE A BIT HAS HAPPENED!
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN... AND WE'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT IT!

END

THE COMIC BOOKS

By Joe Brancatelli

There are thousands of them, 77,691 to be exact, and they are standing in the aisles and doubling up in the plastic seats and parking their bodies wherever there is space. They have come to this spanking new football stadium in the swamplands of New Jersey to cheer and to scream and to clap their hands like none have ever screamed, like none have ever cheered, like none have ever clapped their hands before. These 77,691 people have ignored the rain in the morning. They have come despite the hot, muggy August afternoon and they are laughing at the ugly, black rain clouds that threaten their evening's entertainment. They have come to be fans and nothing will stop them Not the rain or the heat or the clouds.

But these thousands are not here to see the New York Giants, the football team for which this stadium was erected last year, nor are they here to see any football team.

They are here to see soccer, a game so foreign only seven years ago that no American newspaper even bothered to have a soccer writer. Most of all, they are here to see the New York Cosmos, a team so boring only seven years ago that they once played a match in front of a paid crowd of seven people.

Down in the "good" seats, where the rich people and the sports writers sit, a man in the blue suit and tie is screaming with joy as the Cosmos score eight goals to beat the Fort Lauderdale Strikers. He is yelling with devotion and love and pride as the Cosmos win the first game of the North American Soccer League playoffs. Most of all, he is screaming and yelling to reporters.

"We made this," he bellows through a wide grin. "See all these people? They are all here because of us. We made the Cosmos. We made soccer in this country. All by ourselves," the man in the blue suit yells, "all by ourselves we made soccer in America."

The man in the blue suit is not crazy. He is not a drunken man who has caught the press's fancy. He is a business executive, a high-level employee of Warner Communications, the company that owns the New York Cosmos. Most of all, he is telling the truth.

All by itself, Warner Communications made soccer a big business in this country.

Joe Brancatelli, on assignment for *Parade* magazine, is sitting three seats away from the Warner executive, dutifully writing down whatever he is saying. But I am wondering. Wondering why this is not another time and another place and wondering why I am not Joe Brancatelli, comic-book columnist. Most of all, I am wondering why this Warner executive is not on a stage in some hotel ballroom during some comic convention telling hundreds of kids and fans that "Warner Communications made comic books."

The company that eventually became Warner Communications bought DC comics a decade ago at the height of its prestige and earning power. Warner shelled out millions for the family-owned company, then the unquestioned comic-book leader, and even put DC honcho Jack Leibowitz on the Warner board of directors. Batman, a DC character, was on television, in books, in newspaper strips and was selling a million copies a month of both *Batman* and *Detective* comics. The rest of DC's comic-book line was basking in the reflected glory (and profitability) of Batman—and so was the comic-book industry in general. It was at its healthiest level in more than two decades with ten companies publishing comics, Marvel and Archie characters in television cartoons and more to follow.

Warner, for whatever the reason, ignored DC and the comic-book industry. It took whatever profits it could on the Batman craze and ran when the bubble burst. Even though it was the only really powerful conglomerate in the business, it ran away. It let DC fall apart, despite all that the Warner companies could have done, and it let the industry fall apart. Both are in such disrepair today that neither may ever be able to put the pieces back together again.

On the other hand, Warner's forerunner bought the Cosmos in 1971 for exactly $10,000. The Cosmos themselves were in a shambles, playing their games for non-existent crowds in dilapidated old Downing Stadium on New York's Randall's Island.

Superman versus Soccer

The North American Soccer League (NASL) as a whole was worth, perhaps, $100,000 and was in imminent danger of forever disappearing off the face of the earth.

Warner, for whatever the reason, spent millions on the Cosmos. It moved them to Yankee Stadium and, when that didn't work, took them to the New Jersey Meadowlands Sports Complex and Giants Stadium. It spent $5 million to lure soccer's greatest name, Pele, from Brazil to the Cosmos. When Pele wasn't enough, they spent millions more on Giorgio Chinaglia, Italy's greatest soccer player and most prolific scorer. When Pele and Chinaglia weren't enough, they literally stole West German Franz Beckenbauer, who was universally recognized as the world's greatest player, and paid him millions to jump his German contract and come to the Cosmos.

There is no doubt that soccer, once a strictly foreign madness—is now a big-money American sport that will soon be vying for the lion's share of the American sports dollar. The Cosmos are worth at least $5 million today—if they were for sale—and could be worth $30 million by the turn of the decade. The team, some say, may be the most valuable sports property in the world.

There is also no doubt that Warner, all by itself, has made soccer an American pastime. Perhaps a half-million American children now play the game. Five years ago only a handful of kids even knew what a soccer ball looked like. And there is also no doubt that Warner, an $800-million entertainment conglomerate with immense power in the recording, motion picture, television and publishing industries, now has a foothold in sports, a key facet of the expanding leisure-time business.

But what of comic books, the industry Warner bought into at the zenith of its modern-day influence and then helped destroy by its dilettantism? An industry born, bred and developed in America? An industry that could surely be as profitable as soccer if Warner wanted it to be, if it had spent as much time and money on Superman and Batman and Captain Marvel as it has spent on Pele and Chinaglia and Beckenbauer?

If you care at all about comics, you have to wonder why Warner muscled into the comic-book industry and then let it die. You have to wonder why it bought the world's greatest soccer players, but left the comics to god knows how many nameless, faceless corporate gremlins.

Most of all, you have to wonder—as I did that August night in the New Jersey swamps—why Warner pumped up soccer and ignored the comics, one of the few truly American contributions to the world's culture.

PROLOGUE


SANDERSON WAS JUST
YOUNG. NAIVE. WILLING TO DO
ANYTHING TO BREAK
IKE WAS PRESIDENT. ELVIS HADN'T YET BEEN 'BORN'. AND AFTER FOUR DECADES OF RAMPANT PERMISSIVENESS, THE MORAL CLIMATE OF THE COUNTRY WAS AKIN TO THAT OF A RENAISSANCE VICTORIAN AGE!
THE ONLY TIME A LADY WOULD LIFT HER SKIRTS WAS ON HER WEDDING NIGHT. AND EVEN THAT COULDN'T BE ONE HUNDRED PERCENT GUARANTEED.
DESPITE POPULAR MYTH, THE CLIMATE IN HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA, WASN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM ANYWHERE ELSE. YOUR AVERAGE MAN ON THE STREET DESPISED BLATANT PROMISCUITY.
OH, THERE WAS HOLLYWOOD'S JET SET, SURE. WILD. FREE. TAKING LIFE TO THE HILT, SO TO SPEAK.
AND THEN THERE WERE THE VULTURES. THE PHONIES. THE CON MEN AND LIARS. OUT FOR WHAT THEY COULD GET IN RETURN FOR PROMISES THEY COULDN'T KEEP.
MAX J. ROSENBERG
Producer
CAROL GRAY SANDERSON WAS JUST THE
NO MATTER WHAT
SHE HAD TO DO.

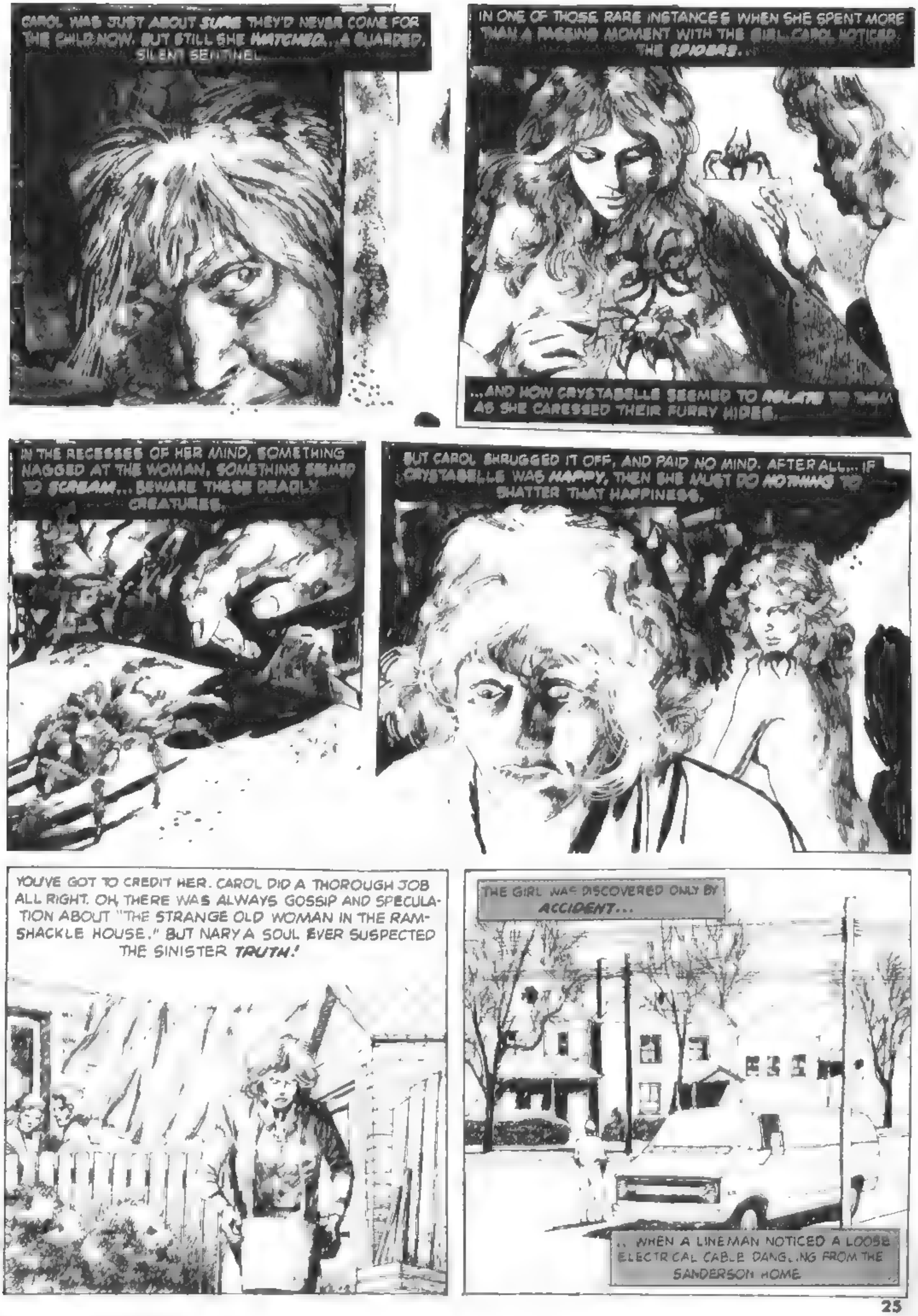

WHEN THE BABY CAME, CAROL KNEW HER LIFE WAS OVER. HER CAREER WAS FINISHED BEFORE IT BEGAN.
SHE WAS A USED-UP, DRIED-OUT HAS-BEEN, RUINOUS OLD-AGE OF NINETEEN!
HER "PRODUCER" FRIEND, OF COURSE, CONVENIENTLY DIDN'T RE-MEMBER HER. EVEN IF SHE'D HAD THE SENSE TO FILE A PATERNITY SUIT, CAROL COULD NEVER HAVE AFFORDED THE LAWYER'S FEE.
SHE HAD NO ONE TO TURN TO. CAROL KNEW THAT IF SHE AND THE BABY WERE TO SURVIVE, SHE MUST DEPEND WHOLLY ON HERSELF.
MODERATELY SUCCESSFUL, IT WASN'T LONG UNTIL CAROL COULD AFFORD A SMALL HOUSE IN THE VALLEY. SHORTLY AFTER SHE SHE MET RED.
LISTEN, BABY...! IF NOT FOR THE KID, YOU AND ME COULD MAKE IT!
WHAT DO YOU SAY, DOLL? GIVE HER UP. COME WITH ME. I'LL TREAT YOU RIGHT.
OH ...RED!
IT TOOK LITTLE PERSUASION TO CONVINCE CAROL TO GIVE UP THE BABY. A NEW LIFE. A FRESH START. IT SOUNDED SO INVITING. SHE NEVER CARED FOR THE BRAT ANYWAY.
AFTER ALL, SHE REASONED, HADN'T THE RUGRAT ALREADY ENDED HER CAREER!?
ADOPTION CENTER
SHE WOULDN'T NEED THE KID NOW THAT SHE HAD
THE LONLINESS WOULD BE GONE. SHE WOULD HAVE SOMEONE. BE SOMEONE.



STORY: BILL DuBAY/ART: LEO DURANONA


CAROL KNEW NO ONE HAD SEEN HER FACE. BUT SHE KNEW, TOO, THAT SHE WOULD BE THE FIRST PERSON THE POLICE WOULD INVESTIGATE!
DON'T CRY, CRYSTABELLE. IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW.
MOMMA'S HERE. MOMMA WILL NEVER GO AWAY AGAIN.
IT WOULDN'T DO FOR THEM TO FIND THE CHILD. SHE MUST BE HIDDEN WHERE THE POLICE WOULD NEVER THINK TO LOOK.
UP WE GO, MY LITTLE DARLING. INTO THE ATTIC!
CAROL HAD THE PERFECT HIDING PLACE!
YOU'LL BE COMFY HERE, LITTLE ONE.
SNUG AS A BUG IN A RUG.
THE POLICE SEARCHED, NATURALLY. THEY WERE SURE CAROL HAD RUN OFF WITH HER OWN BABY.
BUT THEY COULDN'T FIND A SHRED OF EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT.
OH, THEY WATCHED HER FOR AWHILE.
EVENTUALLY, THEY WERE FORCED TO GIVE UP, HOWEVER. THAT'S WHEN CAROL WAS CERTAIN THAT SHE'D WON!
BUT SHE KNEW, TOO, SHE MUST NEVER LET DOWN HER GUARD. CRYSTABELLE MUST REMAIN HIDDEN... SO CAROL WOULD NEVER BE LONELY AGAIN.


THE LEAVES CHANGED, AGAIN, THEN AGAIN. THE YEARS CREPT SLOWLY BY.
CAROL TENDED TO THE CHILD'S BASIC NEEDS. BUT NOT ONCE WAS THE LITTLE GIRL ALLOWED TO LEAVE HER "IVORY TOWER."
SHE GREW, NEVER KNOWING THE BEAUTY OF THE SUN...THE FRAGRANCE OF FLOWERS ...OR THE HEAVENLY SONG OF BIRDS ON THE WIND.
IN HER DARK LITTLE WORLD, WORDS HELD NO MEANING. THERE WAS NO COMMUNICATION. THERE WAS NO MENTAL STIMULATION.
THE CHILD WAS A STONE. MUTE. DUMB. A FROZEN MONUMENT TO HER MOTHER'S MADNESS!
GOD ONLY KNOWS HOW SHE LIVED... HOW SHE FILLED THE LONELY DAYS, THE COLD BLACK NIGHTS...THE SOLITUDE OF HER EVERY WAKING HOUR.
TWENTY-FOUR YEARS THE CHILD REMAINED. LIKE A WITHERED FLOWER, SHE BLOOMED, DEVELOPED BUT NEVER MATURED!


CAROL WAS JUST ABOUT SURE THEY'D NEVER COME FOR THE CHILD NOW, BUT STILL SHE WATCHED... A GUARDED, SILENT SENTINEL...
IN ONE OF THOSE RARE INSTANCES WHEN SHE SPENT MORE THAN A PASSING MOMENT WITH THE GIRL, CAROL NOTICED THE SPIDERS...
...AND HOW CRYSTABELLE SEEMED TO RELATE TO THEM AS SHE CARESSED THEIR FURRY HIDES...
IN THE RECESSES OF HER MIND, SOMETHING NAGGED AT THE WOMAN, SOMETHING SEEMED TO SCREAM... BEWARE THESE DEADLY CREATURES...
BUT CAROL SHRUGGED IT OFF, AND PAID NO MIND. AFTER ALL... IF CRYSTABELLE WAS HAPPY, THEN SHE MUST DO NOTHING TO SHATTER THAT HAPPINESS.
YOU'VE GOT TO CREDIT HER. CAROL DID A THOROUGH JOB ALL RIGHT. OH, THERE WAS ALWAYS GOSSIP AND SPECULATION ABOUT "THE STRANGE OLD WOMAN IN THE RAMSHACKLE HOUSE." BUT NARY A SOUL EVER SUSPECTED THE SINISTER TRUTH!
THE GIRL WAS DISCOVERED ONLY BY ACCIDENT...
...WHEN A LINEMAN NOTICED A LOOSE ELECTRICAL CABLE DANGLING FROM THE SANDERSON HOME.


THE LINEMAN RANG, TO CLEAR HIS PRESENCE ON THE PREMISES WITH THE LADY OF THE HOUSE. BUT IT WAS ONE OF THOSE RARE OCCASIONS WHEN CAROL WAS AWAY... TENDING TO THOSE NAGGING LITTLE CHORES EVEN SHE COULD NOT AVOID.
THE MAN WENT TO WORK ANYWAY, CORRECTING THE FAULTY LINE.
HE NEEDED ACCESS TO THE ATTIC, SO IT WAS ONLY NATURAL TO REMOVE THE SMALL, ORNATE WINDOW VENT.
WHICH IS WHEN HE CAME FACE TO FACE WITH DISBELIEVING HORROR!
OH MY GOD! MY GOD!
THE GIRL HAD NEVER SEEN LIGHT LIKE THIS BEFORE. SO BRIGHT. IT...IT HURT.
BUT MORE... THIS CREATURE, THIS STRANGE ROUGH-VOICED MAN. WHAT WAS HE? SHE KNEW NO WORDS TO VOICE HER THOUGHTS. SHE PULLED BACK IN FEAR!
WHO'S DONE THIS TO YOU?
THE MAN KNEW INSTANTLY WHAT HE HAD STUMBLED UPON. HE'D READ ABOUT SICK CASES LIKE THIS BEFORE... WHERE PEOPLE LOCKED AWAY THEIR CHILDREN ... TREATED THEM LIKE CAGED ANIMALS.
Y-YOU CAN'T EVEN SPEAK, CAN YOU?
SHE WAS FILTHY. WORSE THAN ILLITERATE. HER SMELL WAS LIKE AN UNWASHED ANIMAL'S. HER HAIR HAD NEVER KNOWN A COMB. HER CLOTHING WAS RAGGED, DESPICABLE...!
WE'VE GOT TO GET YOU AWAY FROM HERE!
COME! HURRY.. BEFORE WE'RE CAUGHT!



UNDER IT ALL, HOWEVER, THE MAN COULD SEE HER BEAUTY, HER TRUSTING INNOCENCE, AND THOSE EYES... THE DEEP, HAUNTING, SEA-BLUE EYES!
THE CRAWLWAY WAS NARROW, CRAMPED, DARK AND SLIMY. THE MAN TOUCHED SOMETHING FURRY... AND FELT EIGHT HAIRY LEGS SKITTER INTO THE BLACKNESS.
FOR A MOMENT, HE WAS TOTALLY REPULSED.
BUT HE REALIZED, SHE WAS AT HIS SIDE, AND WHEN SHE MOVED, HE COULD FEEL HER SOLID CURVES... HER FULL, DELICIOUS BREASTS PRESSING FIRMLY AGAINST HIS BODY.
THEY NEEDED NO WORDS IN THAT DARK, DANK-SMELLING HOLE THEY TOUCHED. AND THEY DESIRED. WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS AS NATURAL, AS INNOCENT AS THE FIRST ACT OF LOVE.
THEY LAY IN THE DARK FOR A LONG WHILE AFTER THAT. EVEN IF THEY COULD CONVERSE, THERE WERE NO WORDS TO BE EXCHANGED.
THE MAN KNEW HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE SOON. HE WONDERED VAGUELY IF THE GIRL WOULD STILL COME.
HE KISSED HER LIGHTLY ONCE, THEN TURNED TO CRAWL TOWARDS THE WINDOW. HE KNEW SHE'D FOLLOW IF SHE STILL WANTED FREEDOM.



HE WAS TOTALLY UNPREPARED FOR WHAT HAPPENED NEXT. HE FELT THE PAIN, AND SAW HIS OWN SPILLED BLOOD, AND
CAROL CAME HOME SHORTLY AFTER THAT. SHE SAW THE TRUCK, THE LADDER AT HER WALL, AND INSTANTLY SHE KNEW... HER LONGED-WAGED BATTLE HAD BEEN LOST.
THEY HAD HER BABY. SHE'D AGAIN BE ALONE!
BUT CRYSTABELLE WAS SAFE, SECURE IN HER HOME. SHE SLEPT SOUNDLY... A CONTENTED SMILE ETCHING HER FACE.
THERE WAS A GRUESOME THING AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE ATTIC. CAROL SAW... BUT DIDN'T PAY MUCH NOTICE.
SHE WAS TOO OVERJOYED THAT HER BABY WAS SAFE...
CRYSTABELLE DREAMED BEAUTIFUL DREAMS THAT NIGHT. IT HAD ALL BEEN SO PERFECT. THE MALE, THE MATING, THE RITUAL, AND THE FEAST.
IT WAS JUST THE WAY NATURE HAD PLANNED.
HOW OFTEN SHE HAD SEEN HER LITTLE FRIENDS MATING. IF NOT FOR THEM, SHE MIGHT NEVER HAVE KNOWN WHAT TO DO.
IT DID SEEM LIKE SUCH A WASTE, THOUGH, FOR THE FEMALE TO EAT THE MALE AFTERWARDS.

END



STORY: BRUCE JONES/ART: GONZALO MAYO


DOCTOR HARMON, A PLEASURE!
DOCTOR BUFFORD, MY WIFE, JEAN FORGIVE THE POUT, WE WERE HAVING A MOONLIGHT PICNIC.
OH? HOW UNFORGIVABLE! MY APOLOGIES, MRS HARMON
...HOWEVER, YOU'RE THE ONLY MAN AROUND, IT SEEMS, WHO CAN HANDLE THIS CASE!
I'LL GET RIGHT TO IT: DR HARMON, YOU'RE ELIGIBLE TO BECOME A PARENT--OR, MORE PRECISELY, AN ADOPTEE--TO SOME ONE ON THIS WARD.
PLEASE, LET ME FINISH! ABOUT SIXTY YEARS AGO, A MAN IN DES MOINES, IOWA, DISCOVERED HIS DAUGHTER HAD TERMINAL CANCER. SHE HAD, AT THE MOST, A YEAR TO LIVE
BOTH PARENTS AGREED TO TAKE THAT YEAR TO FIND THE BEST CRYONIC AGENCY OPERATING IN THE COUNTRY AT THAT TIME TO HAVE THE GIRL FROZEN ALIVE UNTIL A CURE FOR HER DISEASE WAS FOUND...
CRYONICS? BUT I HARDLY KNOW THE FIELD..!
...AS YOU KNOW, THE SCIENCE WAS STILL IN ITS INFANCY BACK THEN...!
AS YOU ALSO MUST KNOW, VERY LITTLE SUCCESS HAS BEEN ACHIEVED IN REVIVING THOSE EARLY SUBJECTS. MOST OF THE BLAME LIES IN THE TECHNOLOGY THAT ORGINALLY FROZE THEM--OR THE LACK OF IT. IT MAKES UNTHAWING TODAY EXTREMELY DIFFICULT AND SPECULATIVE.
WE HAVE HAD A FEW SUCCESSES, HOWEVER. THE GIRL FROM DES MOINES IS ONE OF THEM. SHE WAS THAWED SUCCESSFULLY JUST TWO DAYS AGO...
YOU SAID, "ADOPTEE"...
MOST OF THE GIRL'S RECORDS WERE DESTROYED IN A FIRE TEN YEARS AGO. WE'VE RUN COMPUTER RESEARCH ON WHAT LITTLE INFORMATION REMAINS OF HER FAMILY TREE HER CLOSEST LIVING RELATIVES TRACE DOWN TO THE HARMON LINE.. LEGALLY SHE BELONGS TO YOU...!
YOU'RE NOT SUGGESTING...
WE CAN'T FORCE YOU TO ADOPT FRANCESCA, DOCTOR--AND IF YOU DECIDE NOT TO, SHE WILL HAVE PROPER CARE HERE AT THE HOSPITAL.
BUT WHAT THESE PEOPLE NEED IS A HOME ...A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN LEARN TO ADJUST TO EVERYDAY LIFE THE STRAIN OF WHAT THEY'VE EXPERIENCED IS CONSIDERABLE.
I CAN IMAGINE!
JEAN AND I ALWAYS WANTED A CHILD SOMEDAY, AND I CERTAINLY APPRECIATE YOUR--FRANCESCA'S--PROBLEM. BUT I DON'T KNOW..
COULDN'T WE AT LEAST SEE HER, DARLING? IS THAT POSSIBLE, DOCTOR?
OF COURSE. I WANT YOU TO TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT THIS. I REALIZE IT'S A MAJOR STEP. COME, FRANCESCA IS IN THE NEXT ROOM RESTING.


NOW, OF COURSE, SHE'S LOST SOME HAIR AND FACIAL TISSUE IN THE THAWING. BUT DESPITE THIS I THINK YOU'LL AGREE SHE'S QUITE LOVELY...!
I...I WAS EXPECTING A... CHILD...!
FRANCESCA'S SIXTEEN NATURALLY WE'VE CURED HER OF THE CANCER AND THE HAIR AND SKIN WILL GROW BACK SHORTLY WELL? WILL YOU SLEEP ON IT?
WELL? WILL WE SLEEP ON IT?
OH, SCOTT, DID YOU SEE HER? THE POOR THING! IMAGINE WAKING UP SIXTY YEARS OUT OF YOUR TIME ELEMENT WITH NO FAMILY, NO FRIENDS, NO ONE TO TURN TO
IT WOULDN'T BE AS IF WE WERE REALLY ADOPTING HER! SHE COULD FEND FOR HERSELF IN A FEW YEARS AND--
SOUNDS AS THOUGH YOU'VE MADE UP YOUR MIND.
I DON'T KNOW YOU'RE BUSY SO MUCH OF THE TIME-- AT THE CLINIC -IT MIGHT BE NICE HAVING SOMEONE AROUND TO TAKE CARE. I MEAN, IT'S NOT AS THOUGH SHE WERE HELPLESS BABY ..!
THIS IS OUR HOME, FRANCESCA... YOUR HOME. DO YOU LIKE IT?
HOME
UH SHALL WE GO IN ...?


I UH, HAD AN INTERESTING CASE AT THE CLINIC TODAY...
OH!
CLUNK
OH GOD!
FRANCESCA, WAIT!
SCOTT, GO TO HER!
MAY I COME IN?
HONEY, IT WAS ONLY A WATER GLASS
LOOK, I KNOW YOU'RE NERVOUS... WE'RE ALL A LITTLE NERVOUS. MAYBE JEAN OVER DID IT WITH THE FANCY MEAL. HOW ABOUT WE TAKE A LITTLE DRIVE... STOP OFF AT A McDONALDS?
FORGIVE!
HEY. THERE'S NOTHING TO FORGIVE!
WELL, YOU CERTAINLY HANDLED THAT WELL, DOCTOR.
I GOT STRAIGHT A'S IN BEDSIDE MANNER...!


CLUNK!
SHUFFLE
FRANCESCA?
AREN'T YOU SLEEPY? COME DOWN TO FIND SOMETHING TO READ...?
MAY I SEE IT?
YOU NEEDN'T BE AFRAID, DARLING... ANY-THING IN THIS HOUSE IS YOURS.. YOU'RE WELCOME TO IT...!


ALL RIGHT... YOU DON'T HAVE TO SHOW ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO.
CAN I GET YOU SOMETHING? A GLASS OF MILK?
FRANCESCA?
...I DON'T KNOW, IT'S AS IF SHE DOESN'T... TRUST ME. I KNOW SHE'S NEW AT THIS, DR. BUFFORD, WE ALL ARE, BUT SHE'S SO...SO UNCOMFORTABLE AROUND ME!
AND SCOTT?
OH, SHE GETS ALONG FAMOUSLY WITH SCOTT! REAL... BUDDY-BUDDY! COULDN'T BE BETTER!
THAT SOUNDED JEALOUS, DIDN'T IT?
I DON'T KNOW, DID IT?
LOOK, MAYBE--MAYBE THIS IS ALL IN MY HEAD. IT'S TOO EARLY YET ANYWAY. DON'T WORRY, DR BUFFORD, I'M NOT GIVING UP YET.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT, MRS. HARMON AND I WANT YOU TO FEEL FREE TO DROP BY HERE ANYTIME, I MEAN THAT. BE PATIENT! IT'LL WORK OUT!
THANK YOU... I KNOW IT WILL..!
FRANCESCA?
...PAST THE SECOND CIRCLE... SEE IT NOW... WIND!... THE WIND...!...
FRANCESCA...?


. . THAT WE HAVE SINNED! YES! YES! THE PAIN! THE ENDLESS PAIN OF DAMNABLE SUFFERING! HELP ME, MY BELOVED! I CAN'T STAND THE--
FRANCESCA! WAKE UP!
OH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT YOU WERE HAVING A NIGHTMARE.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TELL ME ABOUT IT?
. CAN'T REMEMBER. . .!
OH WELL YOU'RE SAFE NOW.
SAY! HOW ABOUT US GIRLS DOING A LITTLE SHOPPING THIS AFTERNOON? THE OLD CUPBOARDS BARE AND YOU CAN TELL ME YOUR FAVORITE DISHES!
SHOPPING? NO. I...MR HARMON WILL BE HOME SOON...I MUST CLEAN UP... I LOOK TERRIBLE....!
I SEE.
YOU DO THAT, HONEY...YOU GET ALL GUSSIED-UP FOR MR. HARMON...!

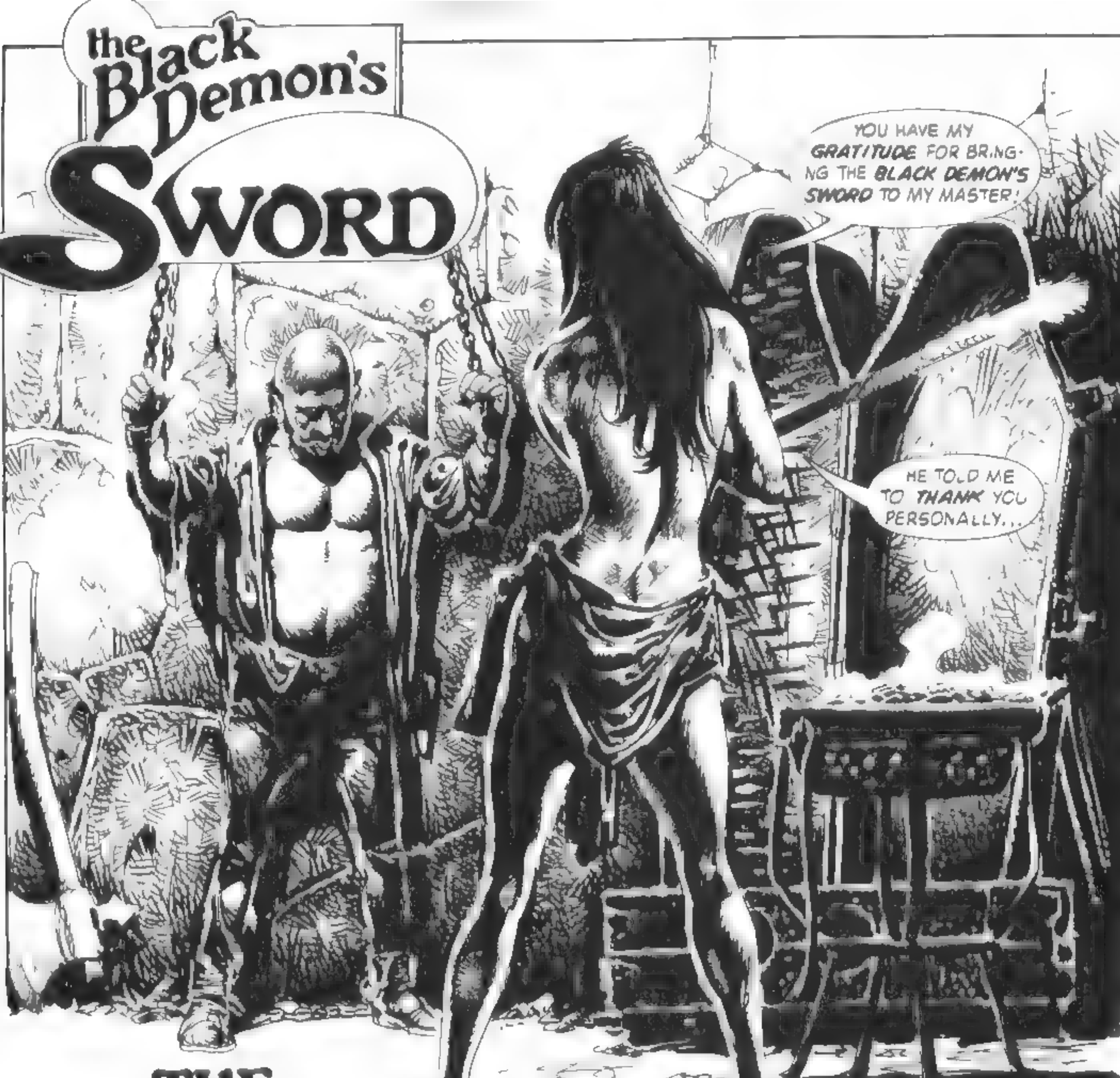

DID YOU HAVE A GOOD DAY AT THE CLINIC, SCOTT?
OH, NOT BAD, FRANCESCA. I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT RAISE.
THEY WILL GIVE YOU THE RAISE, I'M SURE OF IT! YOU ARE THE BEST DOCTOR IN THE CLINIC! YOU DESERVE IT!
WELL, THANK YOU, FRANCESCA, I JUST HOPE THE SENIOR STAFF MEMBERS AGREE.
SAY, DO WE HAVE ANY GRAVEY, HONEY?
OH, YES, I LL--
I'LL GET IT FOR YOU, SCOTT!
JEAN? HEY... COME ON...SHE'S JUST TRYING TO BE HELPFUL. IT'S A GOOD SIGN!
TO YOU SHE'S BEING HELPFUL. I CAN'T EVEN GET HER TO CALL ME BY MY FIRST NAME...!
SHE WON'T GO SHOPPING WITH ME, WON'T WATCH T.V. WITH ME, WON'T GIVE ME THE TIME OF DAY. BUT YOU, ON THE OTHER HAND ..LET'S FACE IT, SCOTT, THE KID'S SMITTEN!
WELL, WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? EVERY LITTLE GIRL GETS A CRUSH ON HER DADDY OR HER DADDY-IMAGE SOONER OR LATER, IT'S NORMAL!
"LITTLE GIRL," EH? I HARDLY THINK SHE QUALIFIES FOR THAT ROLE!
BE THAT AS IT MAY, THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE ABOUT HER THAT BOTHERS ME... SOMETHING INEXPLICABLE. I REALIZE SHE COMES FROM A WORLD OF SIXTY YEARS AGO AND YET... SHE SEEMS FROM AN EVEN OLDER AGE. IT'S HER MANNERISMS, HER SPEECH PATTERN. HAVEN'T YOU NOTICED?
IS THERE SOMETHING ELSE I CAN GET YOU, SCOTT?
NO THANK YOU, FRANCESCA.. UH, PLEASE SIT DOWN AND ENJOY YOUR MEAL...
YES, FRANCESCA, IT'LL BE ALL COLD...
...NOT THAT YOU'D CARE...


THE LATEST BEST SELLER?
HARDLY. I GOT IT AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY. FRANCESCA TOOK A COPY FROM OUR OWN LIBRARY LAST NIGHT. I THOUGHT I'D SEE WHAT WAS SO INTERESTING ABOUT IT
OH?
NIGHT, PUMPKIN
SCOTT... WHAT ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT RIGHT NOW?
I'M THINKING ABOUT SLEEPING -- WHAT DO YOU THINK I'M THINKING ABOUT?
ARE YOU SURE? ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT... OUR RESIDENT NYMPHET?
...ABOUT WHAT SHE LOOKS LIKE DOWN THE HALL THERE IN HERE LITTLE NIGHTIE? ABOUT HER LITHE, YOUTHFUL FIGURE SLIPPING BETWEEN THE COOL SHEETS... ABOUT HOW I'M GOING TO TIP-TOE DOWN THE HALL AFTER YOU'RE ASLEEP AND FALL INTO HER WAITING ARMS...?
YOU BOZO!
THIS WHOLE IDEA WAS YOURS, YOU KNOW!
I WAS WONDERING WHEN YOU WERE GOING TO THROW THAT UP TO ME
HEY... WHY DON'T YOU TURN OFF THE LIGHT AND I'LL THROW SOMETHING ELSE UP TO YOU, M-M-M?
OH, SCOTT... I LOVE YOU SO...



SHUFFLE
CRUNCH
SHUFFLE
...OHH MY BELOVED! ...OH MY HEART... WHAT HAS HE DONE TO US? ..WHAT HAS THE TWISTED FREAK DONE? ...OHH MY DEAR BELOVED.
FRANCESCA .?
FRANCESCA ?
FRANCESCA ...?
EEEEE-AGGHHH!
FRANCESCA!!
END OF PART 1

END







THE MAGICIAN'S TOWER

THE DAYS OF THE SCALLYWAG HAVE GROWN ***DARK***. CLOUDS OF FUNEREAL DOOM HAVE GATHERED ABOVE THE JAPANS, ***STENCHING*** OF BRIMSTONE AND DANK EVIL.

HICKEY J. LUBUS, THE BEARER OF THE ***BLACK DEMON'S SWORD*** HAS BEEN CAPTURED BY THE EVIL FORCES OF THE MAGICIAN WHO NOW HOLDS THE STATUE OF THE SCREAMING GOD

THE BLACK DEMON, SLAVE OF THE BIZARRE STATUE, ROILS FITFULLY IN HIS REPOSE... KNOWING SOMEHOW HIS PRISON LOCK WILL SOON TASTE THE SECRET ***KEY***, FREEING HIM TO DO A MAD MAGICIAN'S BIDDING.

THE HAPLESS LUBUS AWAITS ***EXECUTION***, AND AS FOR THE SCALLYWAG CALLED SULLIVAN-- AN EVIL CONJURING PREPARES EVEN NOW TO ***INCARCERATE*** HIS SOUL IN ***HELL!***

STORY: BUDD LEWIS/ART: JOSE ORTIZ


MATIE, YOU SAY YOU'RE A HELL HOUND...
...BUT YET YOU'VE HELPED ME FIND THE MAGICIAN WHO THREATENS TO BRING THE DEMON TO LIFE! HOW CAN I REPAY YOU??
SULLIVAN-THE-DEMON-WAS-MY-MASTER-IN-HELL! SHOULD-HE-WAKE--I'LL-BE-HIS-DOG-AGAIN!
REPAY? PROMISE-ME! YOU-WON'T-LET-HIM-TAKE-ME-BACK!
I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE THE HORROR OF BEING A DEMON'S DOG IN HELL!
THE BLACK DEMON'LL NEVER HAVE YOU AGAIN! YOU'RE MY DOG NOW...ON EARTH! I PROMISE!
LOOK, DOWNSTAIRS! LET'S GO DOWN THERE!
A TUNNEL! IT LEADS FROM BENEATH THIS MAGICIAN'S WATCH TOWER TO HIS PALACE, I'LL WARRANT!
LEAVE ME JUST STRIKE A TORCH! WE'LL NEED TO SEE WH...UH??
KITCHH
SURROUNDED! BY THE MAGICIAN'S GUARDS NO LESS! NOW'S THE TIME TO TEST ME OL' IRISH MITHER'S ADVICE ABOUT A GOOD DEFENSE...!
LET'S GET OFFENSIVE!! YAHHHAAHH!
IF THESE GOONS STOP US, THE MAGICIAN'LL CONJURE YOUR EX-MASTER FOR SURE, BOY! FIGHT!


THE FIRST CUT WILL ONLY AROUSE YOUR PASSION WITH TEASING PAIN...
CRASH KER-CRUNCH
WHAT? WHATS THAT? NOISE?! FIGHTING IN THE TUNNEL!
CRASH WULAP
WHY WOULD THERE BE FIGHTING IN MY MASTER'S DOMAIN?
GEDAWF ME BACK, SULPHUR SUCKER! I'VE GOT AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR BOSS ABOUT A DEMON!
THE IRISHMAN!
iCRAK
CRAK
YOU'LL SEE THE DEMON, SCALLYWAG!
KER-UNCH
HE'LL BE THE LAST THING YOU SEE!
MAGIC IS AS CLEVER AS MINE! Issss THIS THE MIGHTY MAGICIAN WHO INVADED MY DOMAIN?
THISS IS NO MAGICIAN HURLING FIRE-BOLTS! SSS! TIS NAUGHT BUT A EURO-PEAN VAGRANT!!
BUT I THOUGHT I SAW A WIZARD'S FAMILIAR AT HIS SIDE! A HELL HOUND! SSSS!
NAH! SSSS! I HAVE NO TIME! TORTURE HIM BESIDE THE AMERICAN PIG! SSSS!
AYE, MASTER!
CHUKK


WHAT BRINGS YOU TO THESE PARTS, SULLIVAN?
OORR-HUHH...JUST A NATURAL YEN TO BE TORTURED, HICKEY ME BOY. YOU ALRIGHT?
NOT FOR LONG. YOU NEITHER.
YES. KEEP A GLIB TONGUE BETWEEN YOU. YOU'LL NEED IT TO SCREAM WITH...AS YOUR EYES BOIL IN THEIR SOCKETS!
NO, WOMAN! HOLD! THESE TWO SWINES ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR BRINGING ME THE SCREAMING GOD AND THE KEY TO OPEN IT, AS YOU! SO, THEY MUST WATCH...
...AND BE THE FIRST TO SLAKE THE DEMON'S LONG FAST... WITH THEIR SSSOULSSS! SSSS!
THE LEGENDARY BLACK DEMON'S SSWORD - THE KEY!!
SSSEE THE KEY AS IT SSSLIDES INTO THE LOCK! A SSSIMPLE TURN--
THEN SSSPEAK THE DEMON'SSS NAME...
...SSSFLAVIOSSS...
SSSHHHHHAAHHH
AHHH!!! AMM ALIVE! SCREAMM REVENGE!!
FLAVIO!!



BLOOD! BRING ME BLOOD! BLOOD!! VATS OF BLOOD!
FLAVIO! SILENCE! BE CALMED!
CRACKED SKULLS WITH BUBBLING BRAINS TO EAT! MADNESS! MADNESS!
BLACK DEMON! FLAVIO! HEAR ME! I HAVE FREED YOU! OBEY ME!!
NOOO! MASTER, PLEASE, NO!!
GIVE ME VIRGIN'S BLOOD TO SIP!
I AM YOUR MASTER, DEMON! OBEY ME! HERE, TAKE YOUR REVENGE! TAKE THIS WOMAN! OBEY!!
DAMNED! THE BLACK DEMON IS INSANE! THE CENTURIES OF ENTOMBMENT DROVE HIM MADDD!!
DANC NG? DANCING? KNEE DEEP IN SLIME? GUKKKUKKHHKK!
WHAT ARE THESE? WHAT ARE THESE? LET ME RIP THEM! LET ME RIP THEMMMMAAHAHA!
GOOD GOD, HICKEY! HE'S COMING FOR ME! NOOO!
MAGGOTS AND VOMIT TO BATHE IN!! ATTEND MEEEEEE!
EYOOWWRR
YAAHH! PUT ME DOWN, YEZ STINKIN' BAG O' GUTS!!
NO-NO-NO-NO-MM-HMM-NO-NO



MASTER! HERE-I-AM! YOUR-HOUND-AND-SLAVE! COME' BEAT-ME-INSTEAD! MAKE-ME-BLEED!!
MY DOG! YOU FOUND MY DOG! HAHHAAA!
EEEEE-MMP-MM-EEE
MY DOG! MY DOG! NOW I'LL MAKE HIM BLEED! GOOD DOG! BLEED GOOD DOG!!
REEEE EEEE EEEE
IRISHMAN! MY PLANS HAVE SOURED! THUS I MUST DESTROY EVERYTHING! BEGINNING WITH YOU! YAHH!
FAITH! DON'T TAKE OUT YER ILL LUCK ON ME, MATIE! UGHNN!
I KILLED YOUR DRAGON WITH A SACK O' GUNPOWDER AND IRISH WHISKEY. I'M OUT OF WHISKEY BUT I GOT A JUST ENOUGH POWDER LEFT TO..
SWOOSHH
..LIGHT YER CIGAR!!
KLOUT
WHAP
THUD


KRUNCH
YOU'VE CAUSED A LOT OF PEOPLE A LOT OF TROUBLE AND PAIN, MAGIC MAN! NOW, PAY UP! ALL DEBTS ARE CALLED IN!
COME BACK, DOGGIE! NO, NO!!
THE-SWORD! GOT-TO-GET-SWORD- AHH! GOT-IT!!
LEAVE-ME-ALONE!!
YEEEAAU
YEEEAAH
EIIEE! FATHER! I AM DYING! EEERR! CALL ME HOME! FATHERRRAAIIIEEE!!
HE-HE-IS-TAKING-ME-BACK! THE-PROMISE-SULLIVAN-THE-PROMISE PROMISEPROMISE!!
SAVE-ME! SAVE-ME! THE-PROMISE-THE-PROMISE! EEEEE
DOG! DOG! OH NO! TOO LATE! DAMMIT!
IT IS DONE! OVER! NINJA! KILL THEM! KILL THE IRISHMAN AND THE AMERICAN! NOW! DO AS I BID!
I
DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, GIRL. I CAN'T FIGHT IT ANY MORE.
KILLLL! YOU HAVE BEEN PAID TO KILL! SSS!
YES! I HAVE BEEN PAID A LOT! SO I MUST KILL!
SHUNK
SSSSSSSSASSASSIN UGNNN...


QUICKLY, MEN, SLAY THE MAGICIAN AND USE THE BLACK SWORD TO DESTROY THE DEMON!
IT'S THE DAIMYO!
SULLIVAN SAN! THE MAGICIAN IS ALREADY DEAD? THE DEMON SLAIN? TOO BAD! ALL THIS CAREFUL PLANNING TO KILL THE MAGICIAN AND HIS MONSTER.. AND YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED WITHOUT MY HELP!
HOLD ON HERE! YOU MEAN TO TELL ME THAT...
MY HUMBLE APOLOGIES, SULLY. BUT YOU SEE, SANGAKU HAS BEEN MY SPY ALL ALONG. I LET THE MAD MAGICIAN HAVE THE SCREAMING GOD AND THE KEY, PLANNING THAT THE MAGICIAN WOULD FREE THE DEMON.
THE MAGICIAN WHOSE CLAN HAS MADE THE ANCIENT SPELL, WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD CALL THE DEMON FORTH BY NAME, IT HAD TO BE SO!
THEN MY MEN WOULD RUSH IN, AND AS THE DEMON WAS DISTRACTED...DEVOURING HICKEY...WE WOULD KILL THE WIZARD AND SLAY THE DEMON WITH THE BLACK SWORD.
YOU, SULLY, WERE THE UNKNOWN FACTOR, AMONG MANY UNKOWN FACTORS. BUT, AS MY MEN AND I WERE DELAYED BY THE STORM, WE ARE ALL FORTUNATE FOR YOUR INVOLVEMENT HERE.
IT WAS YOU WHO USED THE BLACK DEMON'S SWORD TO SEND HIM BACK TO HELL?
NO DAIMYO, IT WASN'T I. IT WAS. .SOMEONE ELSE.
SO ENDS THE TALE OF THE SCREAMING GOD. NOW IT'S WORTHLESS. ONLY A KING'S TREASURE IN JEWELS LEFT BEHIND. AND ALL ENDS WELL... EXCEPT...
...EXCEPT FOR A LITTLE CREATURE, WHO'S BACK IN HELL NOW, STRUGGLING FOR ETERNITY AGAINST A MAD DEMONIC MASTER.
I'VE GOT A PROMISE TO KEEP...WHEN I GET THERE...TO CLAIM MY DOG... IN HELL.
IT WAS A PROMISE TO BE KEPT INDEED - FOR PROMISES WERE GOLDEN, IN THE DAYS OF...THE SCALLYWAG!

END

PROLOGUE



TWO FIGURES DANCE CRAZILY AT THE EDGE OF A SUBWAY PLATFORM, HANDS LOCKED ON EACH OTHER'S WRIST, FACES SET IN LINES OF FEAR AND DETERMINATION, THEIR FEET TEETERING ON THE BRINK OF THE YELLOW LINE THAT DROPS INTO THE TRACK AREA,
NOT TEN YARDS FROM WHERE THEY STRUGGLE, A SUBWAY TRAIN ROARS INTO THE STATION...
TONY! --(GASP!)-- DAMNIT!
YOU DAMN FOOL! -- ARE YOU TRYING TO KILL US?
SKREEEEEEE
ME? IT WAS YOU WHO STARTED, PUSHING!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO GRABBED ME! IDIOT! YOU THINK I'M THE SUBWAY KILLER?
WAIT A MINUTE--
HEY YOU! HOLD IT!
HOLD IT YOURSELF!
WHAT THE HELL'S GOIN' ON HERE?
LEMME GO YOU IDIOT! HE'S GETTING AWAY AGAIN!
AIN'T NOBODY TRYIN' TO GET AWAY BUT YOU, DUDE...!
HE HURT YOU, M'AM?
LOOK, I'M A COP! YOU'RE OBSTRUCTING JUSTICE HERE!



BOILING POINT PART 2



STORY: BRUCE JONES/ART: LEOPOLD SANCHEZ


LOOK MAN, I'M SORRY... I GOT WHAT YOU MIGHT CALL A SHORT TEMPER... YOU AIN'T GONNA PROSECUTE ARE YOU? I GOT A WIFE AND SIX KIDS TO FEED!
DOES IT HURT, TONY? DID HE BREAK ANYTHING?
(MOAN). GOTTA... GET THE KILLER... GOTTA STOP HIM...
I ALREADY GOT ONE OFFENSE FOR SHOP LIFTING... IF I GO BEFORE THE JUDGE AGAIN IT'S THE SLAMMER.. HOW 'BOUT IT MAN? YOU GONNA BUST MY CHOPS?
WHICH WAY DID HE GO?... DID YOU SEE HIM?
EASY, HONEY... MAYBE YOU SHOULD SIT DOWN AWHILE.
SEE, I THOUGHT YOU WAS HURTIN' THE LADY. I WAS JUST PROTECTIN' HER... DOING MY DUTY AS A CITIZEN YOU UNDERSTAND... GIMME A BREAK BROTHER, HOW 'BOUT IT?
GEE, TONY YOU HARDLY GOT A SCRATCH... DOES IT HURT?
GONE... THE S.O.B. IS GONE... I KNEW IT!
.. HAD THIS UNCLE WHO WALKED THROUGH A PLATE GLASS WINDOW ONCE AND ALMOST LOST BOTH HIS ARMS! YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT, TONY! --HE MUST'VE HAD A BILLION CUTS ALL OVER HIS BODY!
AND HIS LEFT ARM WAS JUST DANGLIN' THERE BY A THREAD .. LIKE YOU COULD'VE WALKED UP AND JUST, YOU KNOW, PLUCKED IT OFF... WHEW! SOME MESS! AND HERE YOU ARE HARDLY SCRATCHED AT ALL!
I MEAN YOU SHOULD THANK YOUR LUCKY STARS!
YOU WANNA COME UP FOR AWHILE?
I ALMOST HAD HIM, I ALMOST HAD THE CREEP. IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT STUPID CON-DUCTOR!
NAW, IT'S LATE... I'M BEAT--IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE. I'LL PHONE YA TOMORROW.
IT WAS A GREAT RIGHT CROSS, TONY! IF HE HADN'T BEEN BUILT LIKE A GODDAMN MOUNTAIN...!
G'NIGHT, KID!
SCOTCH AND SODA, HARRY... MAKE THAT A DOUBLE.
WHAT'D YOU DO.. WALK INTO A BRICK WALL?
SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
PAUL!
WHAT'RE YOU DOIN' IN HERE AT THREE O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING?


S'MATTER? YOU LOOK A LITTLE... PEAKED
I... I'VE BEEN WRESTLING WITH SATAN, TONY... WRESTLING ALL NIGHT
..AND HE'S BEEN COMING INTO OUR CHURCH FOR YEARS NOW. I-I NEVER PAID HIM NO MIND UNTIL HE BEGAN CONFESSING...!
WHEN WAS THE FIRST TIME YOU REMEMBER SEEING HIM, PAUL?
WELL, LET'S SEE. IT WAS, YES I GUESS IT WAS IN SEPTEMBER, A FEW YEARS AGO... RIGHT AROUND THE TIME I TOOK THE OFFICER'S EXAM. REMEMBER?
PAUL, YOU'VE GOT TO TELL ME.. THERE'S HUMAN LIVES AT STAKE HERE.. HE'S ALREADY KILLED A HALF DOZEN PEOPLE!
YOU KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT, TONY. YOU'RE A CATHOLIC-- YOU KNOW THAT THE CHURCH IS A SANCTUARY TO ALL WHO ENTER ITS DOORS-- CRIMINALS INCLUDED.
I'M BOUND BY THE LORD TO KEEP THIS TERRIBLE SECRET.
DO YOU THINK GOD WANTS A DERANGED KILLER WALKING THE STREETS OUTSIDE HIS CHURCH? PAUL, THIS MAN MUST BE STOPPED! NOW WHO IS HE, DAMNIT?
WHAT TIME IS IT?
THREE-FIFTEEN, WHY?
WE'D BETTER HURRY... HE'S GOING TO BE AT SEVENTEENTH AND BUCKLER AVENUE AT THREE-THIRTY... HE TOLD ME...!
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
THREE TWENTY-EIGHT. I'M SORRY I HAVE TO KEEP YOU HERE, PAUL, BUT I WANT YOU TO MAKE A POSITIVE IDENTIFICATION OF THIS BIRD
GOD HAVE MERCY ON ME.
SH! LISTEN!
CLICK... ...CLICK... ...CLICK...


CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
CLIK
GREAT...
..IS THAT YOUR KILLER?
NO.. BUT PERHAPS IT'S THE VICTIM...!
YOU SURE THIS IS THE NIGHT HE SAID HE'D BE HERE?
I THOUGHT SO...I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE I'M WRONG !
"MAYBE" YOU'RE WRONG? LOOK, PAUL, YOU GOTTA GIVE ME THIS NUT'S NAME. HE COULD BE IN THE BRONX R GHT NOW PUSHING SOME-ONE IN FRONT OF THE D TRAIN!
I'M TIRED, TONY.. LET'S TRY AGAIN TO-MORROW NIGHT.
IT'S GOD'S WILL, PAUL! HE WANTS YOU TO TELL ME!


IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE BREAKIN' ANY RULES BECAUSE THIS GUY IS OBVIOUSLY NOT SANE TO BEGIN WITH!
REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE KIDS, TONY, AND YOU THREW UP ALL OVER THAT FAT LADY ON THE COMET RIDE AT CONEY ISLAND? GEE, CONEY ISLAND WAS A GREAT PLACE IN THOSE DAYS BEFORE THE RIFF-RAFF TOOK OVER REMEMBER THE POLO GROUNDS?
LIFE WAS SO SIMPLE BACK THEN, REMEMBER? THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN WAS YOU'D GET A SPANKING FOR SPILL-ING A BOTTLE OF INK OR SOMETHING THEN YOU'D GO TO CONFESSION, ASK GOD TO FORGIVE YOU, AND EVERYTHING WAS ALL RIGHT AGAIN
I USED TO FEEL SO "CLEAN" COMING OUT OF CONFESSION...THAT'S WHY I DECIDED TO BECOME A PRIEST SO I COULD HAVE THAT "CLEAN" FEELING ALWAYS.
LOOK, WHAT IF YOU WROTE DOWN THE GUY'S NAME ...THAT'S NOT THE SAME AS TELLIN'...!
BUT MOST OF ALL I WANTED TO BE A COP LIKE YOU, TONY. I FELT I COULD DO MORE GOOD FOR THE WORLD IF I WERE A COP. BUT I JUST COULDN'T PASS THOSE DAMN OFFICER'S EXAMS...THOSE CRUMMY LITTLE TESTS...GOD CURSED ME WITH COLOR BLINDNESS...!
WHERE'S THAT TRAIN? IT'S COLD IN HERE.
I DON'T MIND THE COLD IN FACT, I LIKE IT. REMINDS ME OF MY OLD MAN'S BASEMENT. REMEMBER, TONY? REMEMBER MY OLD MAN'S WINE CELLAR WHERE WE USED TO GO HIDE FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD?...I LOVED IT DOWN THERE...SO QUIET...SO PEACEFUL!
RUMBLE RUMBLE
HERE IT COMES!
IT WAS A WHOLE OTHER WORLD DOWN THERE NOBODY COULD GET TO YOU...NOBODY COULD MAKE FUN OF YOU 'CAUSE YOU COULDN'T TELL WHEN THE LIGHT WAS GREEN OR RED...OR IF YOUR TIE MATCHED YOUR SUIT!
NOBODY COULD FLUNK YOU ON A CRUMMY OFFICER'S TEST!
THEY SHOULD HAVE LET ME PASS IT, TONY! THEY SHOULD HAVE LET ME BE A COP...THEN EVERYTHING WOULD HAVE BEEN OKAY! THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LEFT ME OUT...THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LAUGHED AT ME!
..PAUL..?
PAUL!



...THEY SHOULDN'T HAVE LAUGHED AT ME!
HEY!
DON'T START THE TRAIN! I'M COMING OUT!
GOOD LORD!
HOW'D YOU GET DOWN THERE?
DID YOU SEE A PRIEST STANDING HERE ON THE PLAT-FORM--
--THERE HE GOES!
SOMEBODY FELL ON THE TRACKS!
YEAH, THAT GUY...HE'S EITHER THE LUCKIEST GUY IN THE WORLD OR HE KNEW ENOUGH TO LAY BETWEEN THE RAILS...!
IT'S NO GOOD, PAUL! GIVE IT UP!


PAUL! STOP IT! THERE'S NO PLACE TO RUN NOW!
"NO PLACE TO RUN" ...WHO AM I KIDDING? THIS PLACE IS A MAZE...
.. HE CAN'T GET AWAY A THIRD TIME! HE CAN'T! HE CAN'T!
WHEN IN DOUBT...GO TO THE RIGHT!
PAUL! CAN YOU HEAR ME? IT'S ALL OVER! COME ON OUT!
PAUL! PAUL!
PAUL!
PAUL!
PAUL!
CAN YOU HEAR...
ME ME
ME ME
THEY SHOULD HAVE LET ME BE A COP...THEY SHOULD HAVE LET ME...I WARNED THEM...I TOLD THEM...!
PAUL!



WHO IS T?
IT'S ME, PAUL..
DAD? WHAT'RE YOU DOING DOWN HERE? YOU NEVER COME DOWN HERE... I ALWAYS FETCH THE WINE FOR YOU !
PAUL? IS THAT YOU? I CAN HEAR YOU. .WHERE ARE YOU?
HERE, FATHER...I... WAS JUST PLAYING DOWN HERE, FATHER, HONEST. I WASN'T DRINKING ANYTHING! I LIKE IT DOWN HERE...IT'S COOL...PEACEFUL ...NOT LIKE UP THERE...UP THERE N THE STREET...!
YOU...YOU AREN'T ANGRY ARE YOU, FATHER? I PROMISE YOU, I HAVEN'T BEEN DRINKING ANYTHING...PLEASE DON'T BE ANGRY...PLEASE DON'T HIT ME AGAIN...!


HIT YOU? DID YOU SAY HIT YOU? I'M NOT GOING TO HIT YOU. NOBODY'S GOING TO HURT YOU. JUST STAY THERE.. DON'T MOVE... EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT...!
I.. I WANTED TO BE A COP, FATHER... I TRIED TO BE. BUT THEY WOULDN'T LET ME! THEY LAUGHED AT ME!
JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHERS! DON'T BE ANGRY, FATHER! PLEASE DON'T HIT ME AGAIN!
NO, DADDY! I'LL BE BE GOOD! I'LL BE GOOD!
DON'T HIT ME!
DON'T HIT ME!
EEEAAAGGHHHHHH
PAUL! PAUL, WHERE ARE YOU?
I'M COMING, PAUL!
HOLD ON! HOLD ON!
I PUT ON MY BRAKES... BUT I JUST COULDN'T SEE HIM IN TIME IN THAT DARK OUTFIT! IT WASN'T MY FAULT! HE JUST STOOD THERE LIKE HE WANTED TO BE HIT!
MISTER... YOU MAY NOT BE FAR WRONG...!

END

UNBELIEVABLE HOME MOVIES!
HEART-THROBBING-200' REELS!

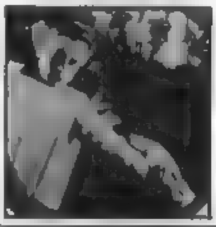
THE UNDEAD



This shocker is really an unbelievable story. Will you be able to withstand the terror that screams from the grave? The skeletons are rising up from their coffins! They want the power . . . Power to rule! Will our mortal friends escape their angry clutches? You've got to see it to believe it! B&W Super and reg 8mm #2225/$9 95

Super 8 only

BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN



Elsa Lanchester and (your favorite monster) Boris Karloff are the incredible starring actors in this very famous horror flick! Frightening and humorous, with the right touches of both whimsy and the Gothic macabre. You'll enjoy this follow up to the original "Frankenstein". Super or Regular 8. Black and White. Order yours! #2228/$9 95

THE MUMMY'S TOMB



[illegible] but rather in the mystified land of Egypt. Here is where the bandaged ghoul hangs out . . . Dead and buried for who knows how long? But is the Mummy actually dead or is he in fact breathing through those bandages? Come a bit closer and see for yourself! B&W in Super and regular 8mm #2229/$9 95

FRANKENSTEIN MUST BE DESTROYED



Are you ready for this one? It's all new and all too frightening! The most horrifying "Frankenstein" movie ever filmed! See the most fiendish monster ever conceived! You can view this film in the privacy of your own home . . . and scream to your heart's content. Super and regular 8 film in Black and White. Order #2234/$9 95

DR. X



This daring movie was one of the most elusive of all the major horror films of the early 1930's. With its great visual style, this film stresses shadowy effects, sharp and angular images. Don't end up in this weird Dr's laboratory. You might never get out! Be sure to order Super or regular 8 film. Black & White #2272/$9 95

MONSTER THAT CHALLENGED THE WORLD



Would you believe a giant mollusk of vaguely lobster like appearance? Having been at the bottom of the sea for billions of years he finally surfaces for a breather and some food . . . None other than human blood! Then it's the U.S. Navy to the rescue! Have you any doubt of the outcome? A Black & White Film. Super & reg. 8 #2274/$9 95

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It must eat you to live! You will be amazed at the size of this beast! It's hard to fight back against fifty tons of ugly creeping black horror! An entire brigade tries its best to stop the spider. Action galore! A Black and White fantasy-film-frolic. Don't waste time in ordering! Super or regular 8mm film. Specify #22

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Nothing so frightful has ever been seen! He is the two hundred foot horror from the Earth's beginning. Burning the human race with its hell fire. Crushing everything that is in its shadowy path. This is surely one angry creature! Be sure to specify either Super or regular 8 in Black and White. Hurry - order #2277/$9 95

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Who dares to do battle against a 500 foot radioactive, fire-breathing, green lizard? Only the Thing! This war of the giants is one not to be missed. The armies of the world see it try to stop it and are destroyed in their meager efforts! A real hair-raising thriller! Black & White, Super and regular 8mm #2278/$9 96

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GHIDRAH



Three heads are better than one . . . For this tri-headed creature, anyway. This beast is unreal! He cannot be destroyed by any weapon known to man! Where does this monster evolve from? A soaring meteor! Soaring into your home in a Black and White movie. Either Super or regular 8mm film. Order yours today and specify #2281/$9 95

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To order any of these items, please see last page of this magazine for convenient RUSH ORDER FORM.

I'LL EAT ANYTHING SWEAT AND T-SHIRT



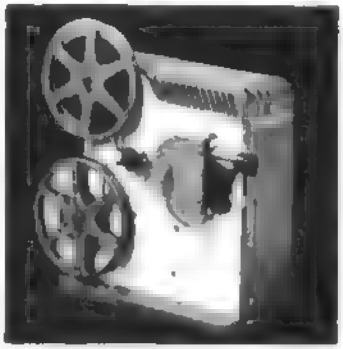
WIN FRIENDS! LOSE FRIENDS! ALL WITH THIS GHOULISH GARMENT!

If you go on a picnic, or to a barbecue, or just over to a friend's house for dinner, this shirt is a must. Nobody will ask you what you want to eat because "I'll eat anything." A riot! Frankie's face is a sickening green with a blood-red smile and gleaming white teeth. Flowers in full color! Autographed!

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WAIT UNTIL YOU SEE WHAT THEY SERVE YOU WHEN YOU WEAR THIS SHIRT! ORDER BY SIZE & STYLE.

MOVIE PROJECTOR!
FOR REG 8 & SUPER 8 MOVIES

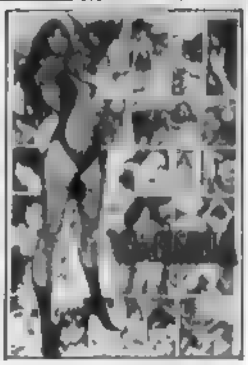


Compare this fine unit with others costing much more—and you'll find that this projector is well worth buying! The full size is 9" x 5" x 10" and comes in a rugged metal housing—Blower cooled and handles 200' reels. Easy threading! Rapid motor rewind. Vertical tilt device Manual framer. 200' take up reel 150 W lamp. Easy to clean. Have a lot of fun! #26010/$39.95

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FUN FOR ALL!
FULL COLOR!

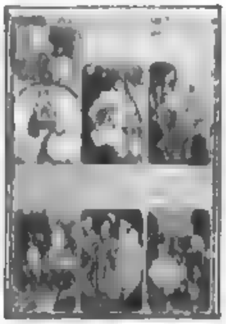
Open your eyes and take a look at these fantastic jigsaw puzzles. Spend hours of enjoyment, together with your entire family. These colorful puzzles are fun to assemble—and mount when completed. And the variety is unsurpassed! Hurry—order now. They're going fast!



Everyone's favorite . . . VAMPIRELLA in puzzle form by artist-Gonzalez! It's 21"x15" color, 500 pieces. #24126/$2.98



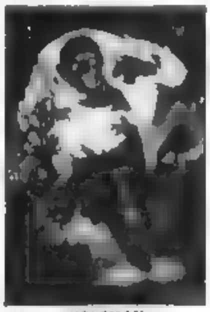
The cover of EERIE #23 by the great Frank Frazetta is also a puzzle! 21"x15" color, over 500 pieces. Order #2429 $2 98



The comic strip by Vaughn Bode, CHEECH WIZARD is a puzzle! 21"x15", 500 + pieces, color #24127 $4 95



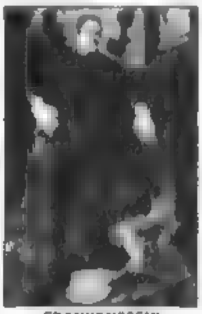
Original Sunday comics page by Burne Hogarth. TARZAN! 20" x16" over 500 pieces A beauty! #2455/4 49



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Assemble this ghastly trio of monsters! With over 200 pieces in each puzzle They are full-color and a big 20"x12" in size. You can create your own Frankenstein, Dracula and Wolfman!



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LONE RANGER #2
#2675/$1 39

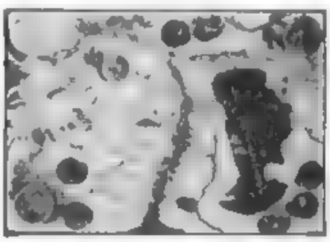


LONE RANGER #3
#2676/$1 39

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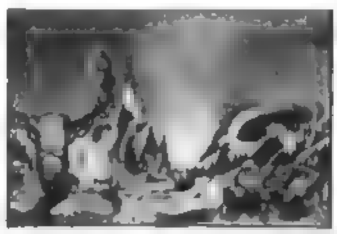


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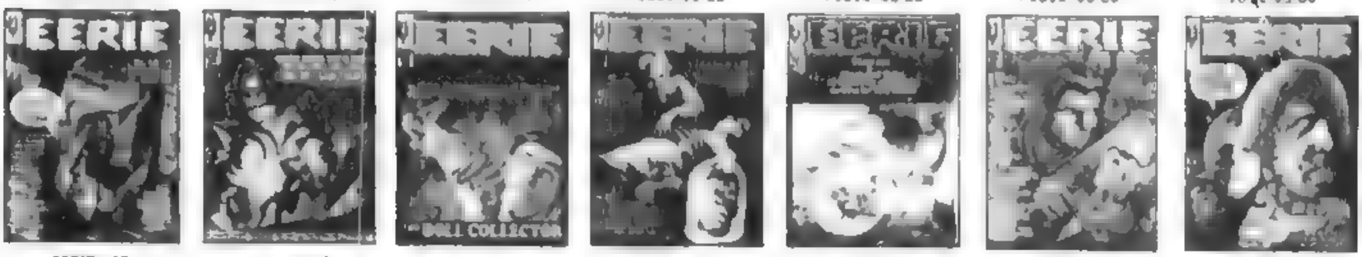
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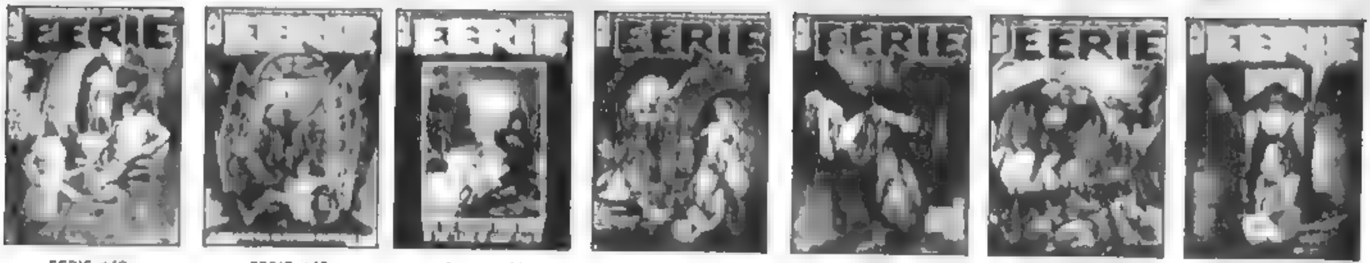


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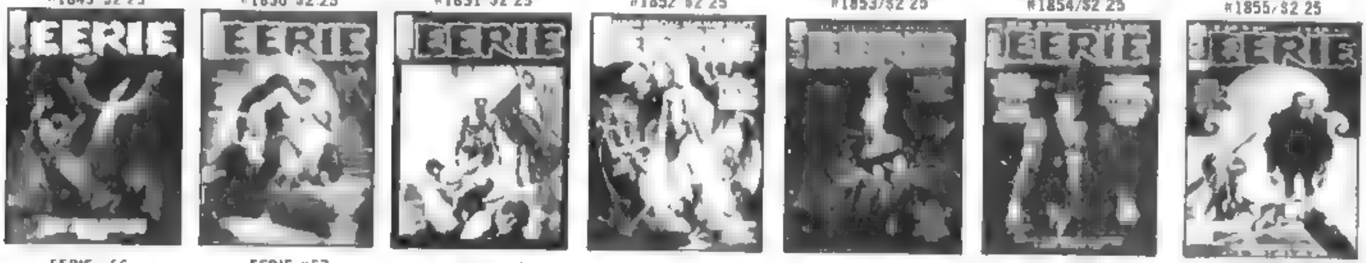
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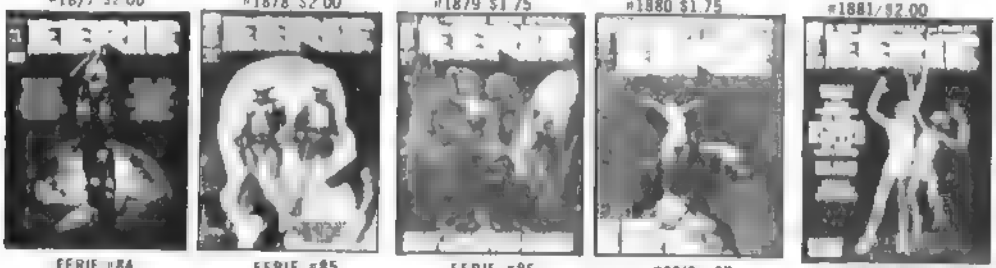
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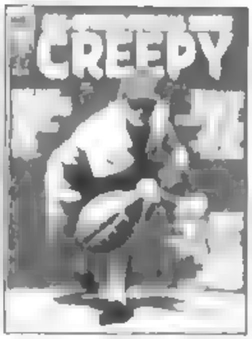
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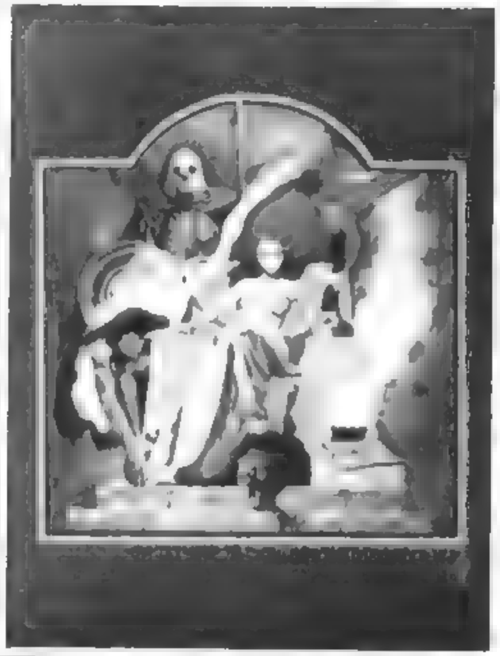


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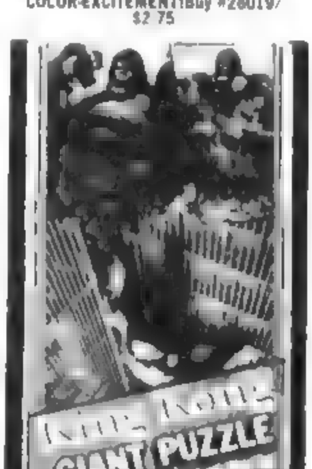
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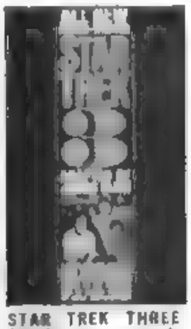
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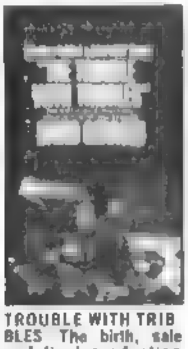
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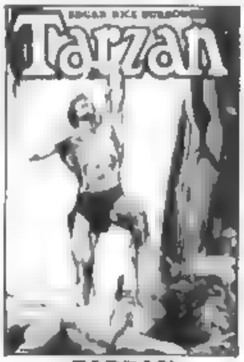
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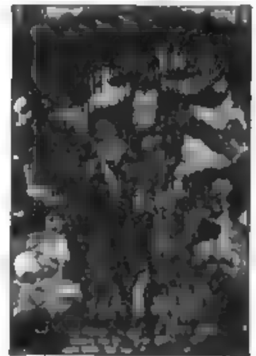
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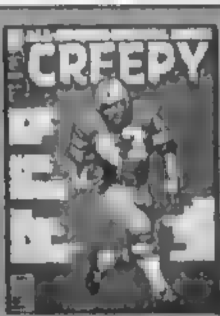
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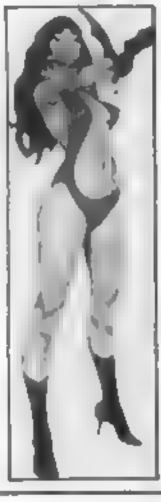




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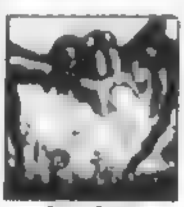
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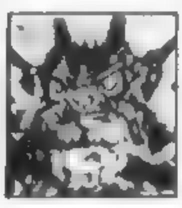
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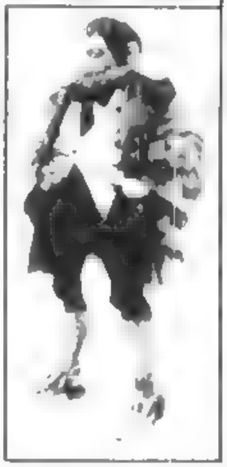
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UNCLE CREEPY

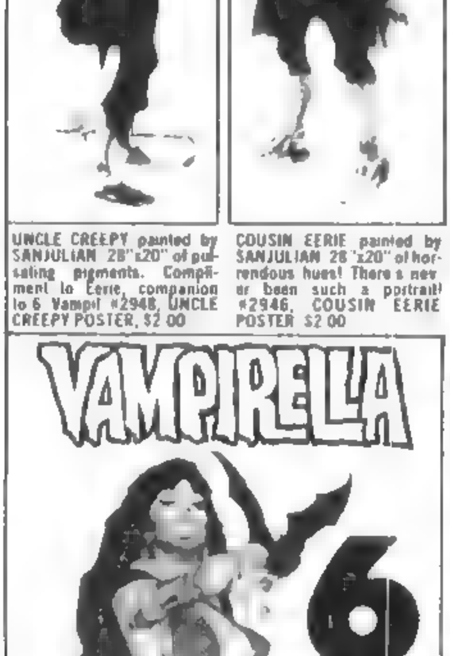


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COUSIN EERIE



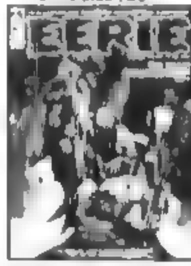
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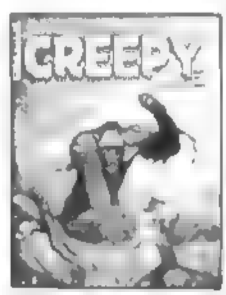
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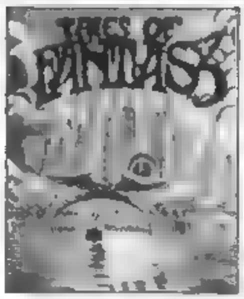
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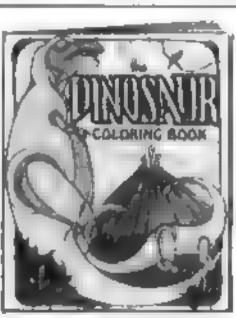
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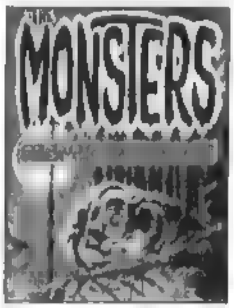
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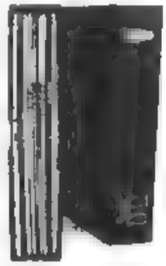
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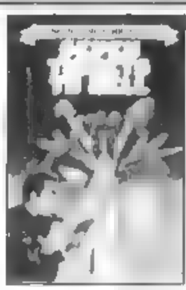
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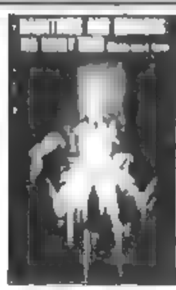
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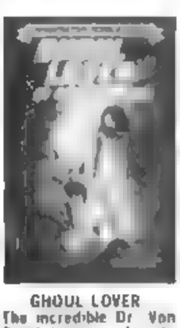
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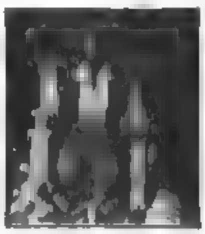
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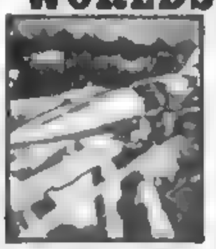
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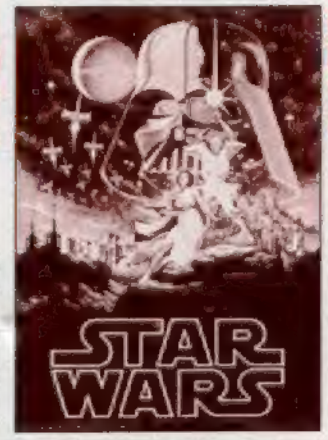
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